FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 APRIL 1983

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation — The Iraqi Navy sank four Iranian vessels approaching Bandar-e Khomeyni on 17 April and hit an Iranian vessel trying to approach Nowruz oilfield the previous day, according to Iraqi military communiques carried by INA and Baghdad radio. In other developments over the weekend, Iraqi aircraft downed an Iranian helicopter northeast of the Gulf and struck at an Iranian air defense system in the southern sector, the communiques announced. The Iraqis also claimed that Iranian losses in the recent Maysan-Faqih offensive included 5,150 dead, a large number of wounded, 17 tanks, and 2 missile bases. Meanwhile, an Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio asserted that Iran has killed or wounded over 8,500 Iraqis, destroyed 98 enemy tanks, and downed 5 helicopters in the recent fighting.

Guards reenlistment — Iran's Revolution Guards Corps issued a statement calling on all those who have previously served at the front to "repeat their presence at the battlefronts" by reenlisting at mobilizaton headquarters in various cities, Tehran radio reported on 16 April.

Saddam Husayn Speeches — Despite the fact that Iraq is at war with Iran, "We say that we are ready to have even Khomeyni come to this place," Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told the Islamic popular conference in Baghdad in a speech broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. He praised the conferees for deciding to invite Iranian scholars to their conference since Islamic Law stipulates that Muslims should hear both sides of a dispute. While reaffirming Iraq's desire for a cease-fire and peace, Saddam Husayn stressed that Iraq's peace calls do not stem from weakness. The Iraqi leader subsequently announced to soldiers receiving bravery awards that the crushing of the latest Iranian offensive will have large negative military and political effects in Iran, INA reported. The Iranians chose the Faqih area as a location suitable for an infantry attack, Saddam Husayn contended, but the Iraqis guessed Iranian intentions and were not taken by surprise.

Oil Slick Talks — Health ministers of the GCC states, Iran, and Iraq again failed to reconcile Iraqi and Iranian differences over how to combat the oil slick leaking from Iran's Nowruz oilfield, according to KUNA reports on the 15 April Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment meetings in Kuwait. The Iraqis blamed Iran for the failure of the talks, KUNA said, and "informed sources" said the main obstacle to an agreement was Iran's refusal to accept an Iraqi observer's presence at the oil well to help supervise the maintenance operation. In remarks broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said Iran will never accept Iraq's demands that the issue be submitted to the UN Security Council and that an agreement on action to cap the leaking wells be made conditional on an overall cease-fire. The head of Iran's environmental protection organization, Mirza Taheri, subsequently blamed Iraq for the breakdown of the Kuwait talks, asserting that all members of the Regional Organization except Iraq "implicitly accepted Iran's views," IRNA reported.

Iran

Security Operations — A large number of officials of the Kurdish Democratic Party surrendered to government forces in the Piranshahr-Mahabad area, Tehran radio reported on 16 April. Earlier, the same source reported that a number of Mojahedin-e Khalq activists were killed or captured in Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces and in Mahabad along with other dissident groups. The report also said large numbers of weapons, explosives, radios, and documents were captured.

Aeroflot Flights — Flights between Moscow and Tehran will soon be resumed, Moscow Radio's Persian service announced on 15 April citing a Soviet aviation official.

Lebanon

Negotiations — Foreign Minister Elie Salim met with U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib, who reviewed the results of his recent meetings with Israeli leaders, Beirut radio reported on 17 April. The Israelis have postponed their response to Lebanon's latest stance pending a 19 April Israeli Cabinet meeting, the radio said. In a report on Habib's 15 April talks with the Israelis, Jerusalem television said Israel and Lebanon were becoming more flexible in order to reach agreement and a compromise was emerging over the status of Major Sa'd Haddad.

Military Cooperation With Jordan — Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri held talks in Amman with the Jordanian prime minister and Armed Forces commander, Beirut radio reported on 17 April. Noting that the Lebanese and Jordanian sides discussed bilateral military cooperation, the radio revealed that Jordan has decided to donate 20 tanks to Lebanon in addition to an earlier consignment.

Syrian Intentions — The Syrian daily TISHRIN announced that Syria will "not easily" agree to withdraw from Lebanon and that it may be obliged to announce a decision to retain its forces in Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo reported on 16 April. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad told visiting Orthodox Bishop Philippos Saliba that the Syrians will leave Lebanon when Israel withdraws, according to a MONDAY MORNING magazine interview with Saliba reported by Beirut radio.

Military Situation — Palestinian forces in Lebanon are on "maximum alert" to confront any Israeli aggression, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir announced in Damascus in a statement reported by Beirut radio. Meanwhile, the Syrians handed over several forward positions in the Al-Biqa' valley to Palestinian forces while the Israelis deployed tanks in new positions overlooking the valley from the west, according to reports

by Voice of Lebanon radio and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon on 16 April. Earlier, the Syrians and Israelis again engaged in artillery clashes along the contact line in the Al-Biqa' area, Radio Free Lebanon said.

Syria

In his message to President Al-Asad on Syria's national day, President Reagan emphasized his determination to continue U.S. efforts for holding expanded negotiations on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution No 242 to bring about real peace in the region, Radio Monte Carlo disclosed on 17 April. Earlier, JANA reported that Al-Asad held contacts with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the wake of increased Israeli military preparations for a new attack against Syria.

Israel

Negotiations should not and cannot be dependent on the freezing of Jewish settlements in "Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza district," Prime Minister Menahem Begin stressed in a nationwide address broadcast by Jerusalem radio on the eve of the 35th anniversary of Israel's independence. After reaffirming that "Eretz Yisra'el" includes the Negev, Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza district, and the Golan Heights, Begin acknowledged that relations with Egypt have deteriorated but asserted that this was because of Egypt's failure to pursue the negotiations not only over the second part but even the first part of the Camp David agreement. Concerning Lebanon, Begin stressed that it is Israel's "full right" to insist that arrangements be agreed upon to prevent aggression against Israeli border areas.

PLO Affairs

After holding talks with Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov in Sofia, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned to Tunis on 16 April and subsequently arrived in Morocco following brief talks in Tunis and Algiers with the Tunisian and Algerian presidents, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO, San'a' Voice of Palestine, Algiers, and Rabat radios. In remarks broadcast by Rabat radio, 'Arafat said he will discuss with Moroccan King Hassan II the issues to be submitted by the PLO to the Forthcoming emergency Arab summit conference. While admitting the existence of PLO-Jordanian differences, 'Arafat said both the PLO and Jordan are anxious to pursue their dialogue. Nevertheless, a PLO official in Rabat earlier denied reports that 'Arafat and King Husayn will hold a summit meeting in Morocco, according to INA. Meanwhile, AFP reported that the PLO Executive Committee would meet in Tunis 17 or 18 April in order to discuss the recent breakdown in the 'Arafat-Husayn talks and to define the PLO's position for the Arab summit conference.

After holding talks with Syrian President al-Asad in Damascus, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said PLO-Syrian talks "at the highest level" will take place shortly. Speaking on Radio Monte Carlo, Hawatimah confirmed that he and Al-Asad had agreed that an Arab summit conference is unnecessary at present.

Jordan

Jordanian officials in Amman disclosed that King Husayn has sent a letter to President Reagan attributing the suspension of the PLO-Jordanian talks to the U.S. failure to recognize the PLO, Baghdad Voice of PLO reported on 15 April. A Jordanian envoy subsequently delivered a message from Husayn to Moroccan King Hassan II dealing with the PLO-Jordanian talks and the question of their resumption, INA noted. In another development senior Israeli officials announced that Israel knew about President Reagan's "secret promise" to Husayn to restore Jordanian sovereignty over the West Bank in return for Husayn's agreement to join the peace process and his promise that a Palestinian-PLO state would not be established in the area, the Israeli daily MA'ARIV reported on 17 April.

Saudi Arabia

Arab Summit — The need to convene an Arab summit increases day by day, a Riyadh radio commentary stressed on 17 April. It called for concentrated Arab efforts to confront Israel's plans.

Aid Commitments — Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Kayl affirmed the Kingdom's determination to adhere to its financial commitments in the development projects of Arab and other friendly developing countries, SPA reported citing a statement published by AR-RIYADH on 17 April.

Egypt

Defense Minister on Libya, USSR — Egypt would view with "concern" any foreign military presence in Libya resulting from treaties with the Soviet Union and its allies, Defense Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said, according to Beirut radio on 16 April. In an interview with the Cairo paper AKHBAR AL-YAWM reported by MENA, Abu Ghazalah stressed that while Egypt harbors no aggressive intentions toward its neighbors, it will confront "with all strength and firmness" any direct or indirect threat to its security.

Soviet Official — A Soviet Foreign Ministry official will visit Cairo soon for talks aimed at normalizing bilateral relations,INA reported on 16 April. Monitored Egyptian media have not reported this development.

Reaction to Shultz Statement — Commenting on Secretary of State Shultz' statement accusing the PLO alone of obstructing the peace talks, AL-AHRAM said it is an impossible position to demand that the PLO accept everything while not demanding that Israel cease building settlements and withdraw from Lebanon, MENA reported on 15 april.

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Palestinian Forces in Lebanon on 'Maximum Alert'

JN161801 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1717 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has announced that the Palestinian forces in Lebanon have been placed in a maximum state of alert and mobilization to face any possible Israeli aggression. Abu Jihad told journalists in Damascus that the Palestinian revolution forces expect an Israeli military operation. He said that, since leaving Beirut, the Palestinian forces have concentrated on quickly rebuilding their military strength and reorganizing, retraining, and reequipping themselves in central and northern Lebanon.

Israeli Attack Expected

LD161358 Kuwait KUNA in English 1227 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text][Word indistinct], April 16 (KUNA)—A ranking Palestine Liberation Organization [words indistinct] has obtained "the green light" from the U.S. to launch an aggression against PLO forces in eastern [words indistinct] Lebanon.

The alarm was sounded by deputy commander of the PLO for[word indistinct] Khalil al-Wazir, better known by his codename of Abu Jihad. Al-Wazir made the announcement in a dialogue with reporters [word indistinct] one day after returning from the Jordanian capital of Amman where he participated in the funeral procession of slain Palestinian official Dr. 'Isam as-Sartawi who was assassinated last Sunday while representing the PLO at the Socialist International (SI) conference in Portugal.

Al-Wazir upon arriving here Friday evening, said PLO forces in central and northern Lebanon were placed in a state of "maximum alert" to confront any possible Israeli attack. Al-Wazir's remarks coincide with reports from Beirut of an escalation in the military situation along the 50-kilometer frontline across the central Lebanese Al-Biqa' Valley where the Israeli occupation forces are entrenched within meters from Syrian soldiers and PLO guerrillas. Al-Wazir said "we and our Syrian brethren expect an Israeli military operation aimed against our forces. That is why all precautionary measures were taken to defend the Palestinian revolution and the Arab territories both in Lebanon and Syria."

Forces of the Palestinian revolution, according to Al-Wazir, "believe that any aggression against any part of the Arab homeland is a direct attack against the revolution and cause." PLO forces, Al-Wazir noted, "have, since the evacuation from Beirut (late last August) concentrated efforts on the swift rebuilding of its military capabilities, training and armament in the Al-Biqa', northern Lebanon, Syria and throughout all other military bases." In an apparent comparison, Al-Wazir explained that PLO forces are "now much stronger than before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon," which started last June four. The "Palestinian Military Council" which is a joint military command responsible for fighters of the eight guerrilla groups making up the PLO, "is considering a series of measures to complete the unified formation of the revolution's forces."

The Damascus representative of the International Red Cross Community (IRCC) was informed Friday that his organization "should fully shoulder its responsibilities in securing safety and survival of Palestinians held by Israeli forces both in Lebanon and Israel," Al-Wazir said. Al-Wazir on the same topic, announced that Israeli forces have recently "killed 41 civilian Palestinians in the Ansar detention camp" of southern Lebanon. He did not disclose further details regarding this development, however. The PLO, according to Al-Wazir, is "still waiting for Israel's response to its conditions regarding an exchange of prisoners including a recognition by Israel. The announcement by Israel of names of 300 Palestinian fighters who were listed as missing "were apparently held by Israeli invasion forces in Lebanon." The conditions, Al-Wazir explained, also include the release of 5,400 persons held in Ansar and 1,000 people held in Israeli jails.

PLO Radio: 'Arafat Meets With King Hassan II

JN171814 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has met with King Hassan II. They reviewed the situation in the Palestinian arena and the latest developments in the Middle East.

Brother Abu 'Ammar arrived in Fes from Algiers where he held similar talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The brother commander in chief and his delegation, which comprised Fatah Central Committee members Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], were welcomed by Ahmed Bensouda, adviser to the Royal Cabinet; Al-Mahdi al-'Alawi, governor of Fes; the PLO representative in Morocco; and several civilian and military figures.

Talks To Continue

JN181051 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Rabat, 18 Apr (INA)—It was learned here today that King Hassan II of Morocco and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during their meeting in Fes last night agreed to resume their talks within the next few days.

An authoritative Palestinian source has told the INA correspondent here that 'Arafat will return to Morocco at the end of his visits to the CSSR and Hungary to resume talks which he began with King Hassan II in Fes last night and which focused on the Palestinian-Jordanian relations and the Palestinian question in the international arena.

It is worth mentioning that 'Arafat left Fes early today en route to Prague and Budapest.

The Palestinian source dismissed reports that the Moroccan monarch and Yasir 'Arafat had agreed on certain points concerning the topics with which their talks dealt, stressing that the talks were comprehensive but would be more specific during the next round, scheduled to take place within the next few days.

AFP: PLO Meeting Scheduled for 17 or 18 Apr

NC161342 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Tunis, April 16 (AFP)—A crucial meeting of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization is now scheduled to take place either tomorrow or Monday, Palestinian sources said today.

The meeting, which had been scheduled for Thursday, is expected to take place after the return from Algiers of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. This week's session had been postponed to allow for the arrival of all 14 committee members and other senior Palestinian officials.

Mr 'Arafat arrived here today from Sofia and met this morning with Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba. He is scheduled to fly to Algiers tonight for talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The meeting of the Executive Committee, sources here said, will deal with last weekend's announced breakdown of negotiations between Mr 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan to work out a common approach to future Middle East peace negotiations with Israel.

The session—the first since Jordan announced the failure of the two parties to reach an accord—will also define the PLO position before an Arab summit meeting scheduled to be held in Fes, Morocco, early next month and the situation in the Israeli occupied territories.

'Arafat Ends Visit to, Meetings in Bulgari

Activities in Bulgaria

JN151748 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1717 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text]Sofia—Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov received Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and his delegation at the state palace today. The [Bulgarian Communist Party]Politburo members and senior state officials attended the meeting.

The Bulgarian leader welcomed the brother commander in chief and greeted the steadfastness of the fighters as well as the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in the face of aggression. He stressed that Bulgaria will continue to stand by the side of the PLO until it achieves its aims of liberating its homeland and establishing its independent state.

After the welcoming speech, brother leader Abu 'Ammar reviewed the political situation and the Arab and international developments in the [Palestinian] question. Abu 'Ammar told Chairman Zhivkov: The revolution has managed to organize its ranks and institutions in the shortest possible time. The PLO is now waging the most honorable battle in order to maintain the unity of the Arab position on the Fes resolutions.

A working meeting is scheduled to be held between brother leader Abu 'Ammar and Chairman Todor Zhivkov, after which the Bulgarian leader will give an official dinner in honor of the commander in chief. Ranking Bulgarian state and party officials will attend.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar arrived in Sofia from Tunis on a 2-day visit to Bulgaria for talks with senior Bulgarian officials. He is scheduled to return to Tunis at the end of his visit to Bulgaria in order to preside over an expanded meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the general secretaries of the Palestinian revolution factions, with the aim of discussing the next step regarding the Middle East peace plans.

Sofia Press Statements

JN161759 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1717 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has arrived in the Tunisian capital from Sofia following an official visit to Bulgaria during which he held talks with officials in the Bulgarian party and government. Brother Abu 'Ammar held a press conference at the Press Conference Hall in the Bulgarian capital before leaving Sofia, attended by the correspondents of foreign and Arab television networks, news agencies and newspapers. Brother Abu 'Ammar answered the journalists' questions touching on a number of current Middle Eastern and world issues.

Asked about Palestinian-Jordanian relations, the brother commander in chief said the door is still open for new Palestinian-Jordanian meetings and that Arab efforts are under way to remove the sudden obstacles which emerged during the last meeting.

Asked about the proposed Arab summit, Brother Abu 'Ammar said this summit has been postponed for 2 weeks to allow a continuation of dialogue and efforts to render the summit successful.

Asked about peace efforts in the Middle East, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that the PLO supports the Soviet call for an international conference to achieve a lasting and comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

Asked about the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and its results, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: The Menahem Begin government and the mercenaries of the Israeli army carried out the invasion of Lebanon in the interest of the United States. I now ask them if they have indeed crushed the PLO. The Palestinian revolution has rebuilt its forces, institutions, and organs in a short period. The whole world has watched our fighters, who have carried out more than 360 fedayeen operations against the invasion forces since our departure from Beirut. The last of these was the Ra's al-'Ayn operation in which they inflicted heavy losses on enemy soldiers. I say here that what they have failed to achieve by military force and aggression will not be achieved by political pressure and maneuvering. We will not succumb to pressure or blackmail regardless of the quarter applying them.

Asked about the situation in the occupied territories, the brother commander in chief hailed our heroic people who are resisting occupation, settlement, and suppresion. The brother leader said that the occupied territory front will not calm down until our people's objectives of return, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state are achieved. The brother leader added: Poisoning our daughters in such a savage manner is one of the war crimes which are being committed by terrorist Begin and his gang, but our people will not give up their land as long as they have the weapon of stones, which is stronger than any other weapon, because it is backed by deep faith in our people's right to existence and free, honorable, and independent life on their territory.

A joint statement on brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Bulgaria has condemned attempts to isolate the PLO from the Arab and friendly states. The statement affirmed that any settlement of the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question must be based on the Arab peace plan agreed on at the Fes summit, which calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The statement noted that the PLO will work for the establishment of a confederation between the Palestinian state and Jordan in the future.

'Arafat Returns to Tunis After Visit to Bulgaria

LD161225 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Tunis, 16 Apr (TAP)—Mr Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, returned late last night to Tunis from Sofia after an official visit to Bulgaria, which lasted about 24 hours, and during which the Palestinian leader held talks with Chairman Zhivkov, which were attended by delegations from both sides. [Words indistinct] the talks included the developments of the Middle East problem in general and the Palestinian issue in particular, and the efforts to achieve peace in the Arab area.

'Arafat Leaves Tunis for CSSR, Hungary, Romania

NC180932 Paris AFP in English 0922 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Tunis, April 18 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat left here today for Prague on an official visit to be followed by one to Hungary, authoritative Palestinian sources said. Mr 'Arafat might complete his tour with a trip to Romania, where he has been invited by President Nicolae Ceausescu, the sources said. The PLO chief returned here during the night following visits to Algiers and Rabat for talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Morocco's King Hassan II.

KUNA: 'Arafat To Visit USSR in 'Near Future'

LD181016 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Fes, 18 Apr (KUNA)—It has been learned from an official Palestinian source that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, is to visit the Soviet Union in the very near future, a visit that is described as important, at the invitation of the Kremlin.

PLO Radio Reports Husayn Message to Reagan

JN151739 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1717 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Jordanian officials said in Amman today that King Husayn has sent a letter to U.S. President Ronald Reagan attributing the suspension of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks to the U.S. failure to recognize the PLO. Those officials added that, in his letter to President Reagan, King Husayn indicated that the United States had failed to put pressure on Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon and to halt the construction of settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Lebanese Group Claims Responsibility for Attack

JN151846 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, stated today that the Lebanese National Resistance Front had claimed responsibility for the operation carried out against an Israeli transport vehicle near the city of Tyre yesterday and that this operation had killed about 15 Israeli soldiers. An Israeli spokesman said last night that an Israeli soldier was killed and two others were wounded in this operation.

PLO's Khalil al-Wazir Rejects U.S. Interference

GF171004 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Apr (WAKH)—Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has stressed that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue is not deadlocked. He indicated that meetings between officials will take place shortly. In a statement to the Saudi paper AR-RIYAD published today, Abu Jihad called for further awareness in confronting the plans of the Zionist enemy, who depends on the policy of the imposition of the de facto situation. He also said: "We must always be ready to confront the enemy's plans and to move in the direction of averting disunity and weakness." He called for unity in the Arab fold and unity of Arab powers. Abu Jihad also pointed out that the Zionist enemy strengthens its aggressive presence everyday and whenever it realizes that the road to the goals of its agression is blocked, it looks to new forms of aggression. Abu Jihad charged the United States with interfering in the internal Palestinian and Arab affairs when it called last week for the withdrawal of Western recognition of the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He added: The fuss created by the United States following the stopping of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, and the statements of Shultz—who made charges against so-called extremist elements in the PLO and demanded that the Arab countries review their stands toward the PLO—are rejected as interference in the affairs of our people and in the affairs of PLO. Moreover, this is an unsuccessful attempt to pressure our Arab nation.

GULF AFFAIRS

Report Says Consultation To Resume on Gulf Spill

GF171158 Doha QNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Dubayy, 17 Apr (QNA) — 'Abd al-Latif az-Zaydan, the general coordinator of the Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment [ROPME] in the Gulf has noted that the ministerial council of ROPME will meet again in Kuwait before the end of this week due to the gravity of the situation caused by the expansion of the oil slick. He stressed that there are intense contacts currently in progress to overcome the problems that have so far obstructed reaching a unified agreement to confront this danger.

In a statement to the UAE paper AL-BAYAN published today, Az-Zaydan noted that the consultations that the minister held in Kuwait last week led to solving most of the problems, but he pointed out that the main problem is reaching an agreement among the member countries on capping the damaged oilwells and implementing the plan to protect the region against pollution. The Gulf official did not rule out that 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti public health minister and the executive secretary general of ROPME, will make shuttle tours among the member countries, particularly between Iraq and Iran, in order to bring their views closer if this becomes necessary.

GCC'S Bisharah on Gulf War, Other Issues

LD171346 Kuwait KUNA in English 1048 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, April 17 (KUNA) — "There are no optimistic signs of ending the over two-year-old Gulf war", secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council said Sunday.

The GCC official, 'Abdallah Bisharah was quoted by AS-SIYASAH newspaper as saying that "the region's developing countries cannot cope with expenses of this war". He did not elaborate on this particular remark.

In the interview, Bisharah indicated that "we have made many efforts in an attempt to end the 32-month-old war. We feel that as long as the war is continuing, we will not have stability in the Gulf," Bishara pointed out.

Answering a question as to whether the GCC is planning to build joint forces for security of the region, he clarified that "our plans will not go that far". "We are aware of our limits and we know we have to be realistic", the GCC official stressed.

On establishing an arms factory, Bishara cited "we are thinking of the idea however, we ought to make studies of our capabilities to carry out such a task". We hope to conduct such studies next year, he added.

The GCC official elaborated "we are trying to regulate the penal code to prevent any general crimes."

Commenting on comprehensive cooperation including economic cooperation, Bisharah said "the council made great strides in this field, which is good for a two-year-old council." There is also comprehensive coordination in the field of industry among the GCC member states, he added.

Through these plans, we are striving to strengthen the economic base by, for instance, expanding telecommunication systems and road networks. Secondly, establishing a joint market among the GCC states and fourthly, providing the right of investment of the GCC peoples within the framework of the member states.

Answering another question on the existence of tension in the Gulf region as a result of the presence of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan, Bisharah noted that the great danger threatening the Gulf region is the Israeli expansion policy and the Israeli rejection to recognize the Palestinian peoples' rights.

He clarified that at present we do not feel threatened by the Soviet Union, but we do feel so by the Israeli prime minister Menahem Begin.

Speaking on whether Iran is threatening the Gulf states, the secretary general indicated that one of the Gulf states characteristics is its ability to cope with any situation based on non-interference in the internal affairs of others.

However, Iran believes it has the right to interfere, based on religious principles, Bisharah pointed out.

The GCC official concluded by voicing hope that the principle of non-interference will remain respected.

Saudi-Bahraini Causeway Still in Progress

GF180712 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0605 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Manama, 18 Apr (WAKH) — Shaykh Ibrahim ibn 'Abdallah Al Khalifah, president of the Saudi-Bahraini causeway project, has announced that work on the project is progressing at rates higher than expected. Concrete bases are now being installed at a rate of four to five a week, while three to four bases were originally scheduled to be installed per week.

In a statement published by the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ today, Shaykh Ibrahim said 29 bases have been installed up to now, that parts of the causeway are being manufactured in a factory on the industrial island on site, and thathopefully, the first parts of the causeway will be erected on these concrete bases in late May or early June. The project president noted that the causeway project was scheduled to be completed in January 1986, but there is hope that the project will be completed ahead of time, in December 1985.

BAHRAIN

Bahrain Daily Scores Iran Refusal on Well Repair

GF160614 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 16 Apr 83 p 6

["Comment" Column]

[Text] It is a tragedy for all the Gulf that Iran is refusing to agree to terms which will allow the gushing oil well to be capped.

As the massive oil slick continues to grow, so the threat to the whole of the Gulf increases. No one yet knows just how much damage the slick will cause, but everyone, including Iran, knows that every extra day it is getting worse.

Terms have been put which Iraq has agreed to meet to ensure that the well is capped, but Iran has refused all efforts made to bring about a ceasefire to allow workmen into the war zone.

As the oil continues to gush into the already heavily polluted Gulf waters it is hoped that Iran will realise its stubbornness and stupidity cannot benefit anyone.

A breakdown in the Kuwait talks means there are numerous losers, and no winner. At all costs, Iran must see sense.

Saudi Oil Minister Arrives Bahrain 18 April

GF180816 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0755 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Manama, 18 Apr (WAKH) — Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources, arrived in Manama on a short visit to Bahrain today. During the visit, the Saudi minister will hold talks with Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, Bahraini minister of development and industry and minister of state for Cabinet affairs, on bilateral oil issues.

KUWAIT

KUNA Cites USSR Official on Soviet-Kuwaiti Ties

LD161254 Kuwait KUNA in English 1155 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Moscow, April 16 (KUNA) — The Soviet deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Affairs and deputy head of the Presidium of the Soviet Society of Friendship with Arab Countries Vladimir Mordvinov, told KUNA that Soviet-Kuwaiti relations and cooperation are continuing to develop in the service of world peace. Establishment of Kuwaiti-Soviet relations on March 11, 1963 was "a great event in the history of both peoples," Mordvinov noted.

The official also hailed the communique issued in the occasion the Kuwait Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit to Moscow in April, 1981.

The communique states "The friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Kuwait, (?based on) respect of both states sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of both countries, are developing to the interest of both countries." Mordvinov affirmed "stands of both states are identical, relating to the issue of respecting peace in the Middle East." The official indicated that the Fes peace plan has gained support of the Soviet Government and affirmed that content of the proposal does not contridict any country's desire to achieve peace.

Both Kuwait and the Soviet Union agreed that peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East region on the basis of partial solutions, the Soviet official elaborated. Kuwait approves the Soviet proposal to hold an international conference on ways to reach peace in the Arab region, he added.

Speaking on views by both states toward the establishment of foreign military base in the Gulf region, Mordvinov said "They are identical."

Moreover, on Kuwaiti-Soviet relations, the official noted an exchange of visits resulted in an economic and technical cooperation agreement, in addition to a cultural agreement.

He also clarified that the visit of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to Moscow in 1983 gave a new push to the development of Kuwaiti-Soviet relations.

Mordvinov concluded by affirming willingness of both states to advocate and promote relations and expand cooperation in the field of commerce, educational and economy.

SAUDI ARABIA

Commitments to Sister Countries Will Be Met

LD171350 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0640 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Apr (SPA) — The minister of finance and national economy, Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, has affirmed the Kingdom's determination to adhere to its financial commitments to the sister Arab countries in accordance with the decisions these commitments are based on.

In a statement to AR-RIYAD published today, he explained that the Kingdom's participation in the development projects of the sister Arab countries and the friendly developing countries is continuing through the Saudi Development Fund according to the regulations by which the fund functions.

The minister pointed out that the budget for the new fiscal year 1983-1984 includes all financial allocations necessary for the Kingdom's foreign commitments.

Defense Minister Reasserts Interest for Peace

GF171940 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT17 Apr 83

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense, has asserted the desire of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his wise government for the peace option as a comprehensive and complete solution to the events the Gulf and Arab region and

the world is witnessing.

In a statement to appear in tomorrow's issue of the newspaper AL-YAWM, his highness said the Kingdom is using all its material and moral capabilities and is putting forth its maximum efforts for that purpose and to create cooperation and fraternity together with fraternal meetings between the Arab leaders, which are the source of Arab solidarity.

Answering a question on the proposed ideas to bring about reconciliation between Oman and the PDRY, his highness expressed the Kingdom's satisfaction over these efforts and said: There are efforts being exerted by the region's countries on this issue, noting that there is an understanding between the two countries to solve their problems.

Prince Sultan lauded the positive planning to turn out Saudi manpower to replace the expatriate manpower, adding that the Kingdom has formed the manpower council to improve Saudi manpower, raise its level and equip it with practical and actual training and by giving encouraging rewards in the construction of this dear homeland. His highness also said that due to the construction development in the Kingdom, the experience and contributions of expatriate manpower is required to complete plans of construction and progress and the projects being executed in the service of the homeland.

UAE

UAE, PDRY Foreign Ministers Meet 17 Apr

GF171256 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Apr (WAKH) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of foreign affairs, met here today with Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, PDRY minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting the UAE.

After the meeting, Dr ad-Dali stated that they reviewed bilateral relations, the current Arab situation and the developments of the Palestinian issue in view of the forthcoming Arab summit conference which is scheduled to be convened in Morocco.

He said they also reviewed mediation efforts between his country and Oman which are being advanced by the UAE and Kuwait, noting that the improvement in relations between the PDRY and Oman is proceeding normally and that contacts continue between the ambassadors of the two countries in Kuwait. He pointed out that the border committee will hold its second meeting shortly; it held its first meeting in Abu Dhabi to discuss issues concerning the two countries on the border issue.

The PDRY minister expressed the hope that this meeting will have good results and will result in the implementation of all clauses which were reached to find fraternal relations, good neighborliness and peaceful coexistence for the sake of the region's countries.

On the other hand, Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of foreign affairs, has affirmed that views were identical on many issues which were discussed during the meeting.

He noted the positive steps that have been made regarding the agreement of principles between Oman and the PDRY, asserting that his country is looking forward to the execution of this agreement for the general good of the two peoples and the region's countries. He said the committee for the PDRY-OMAN border will meet during the month of May.

Ghali Hands Message to Reagan, Makes Statement

NC151758 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Washington, 15 Apr (MENA) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan received at noon today Butrus Ghali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who is currently visiting the United States. Ghali delivered to President Reagan a written message from President Husni Mubarak. A MENA correspondent in Washington has learned that the message includes a review of Egypt's position on the current obstaclesto peace in the Middle East, and Egypt's views on overcoming these problems so that stability and a just and lasting peace can prevail.

During the meeting, President Reagan asked Dr Ghali to convey to President Mubarak his adherence to his initiative to establish peace in the Middle East. President Reagan affirmed to Ghali that the United States will put all its weight behind the peace process in the Middle East.

Following the meeting, Dr Ghali stated that he felt from the meeting that the United States appreciates the Egyptian role in the Middle East crisis and Egypt's firm desire that the peace march not lose the current momentum. He said that the Egyptian and U.S. views of the issue agree on the need to exert further creative diplomatic efforts so that we can surmount the obstacles that emerged in the past few days. Ghali said that his meeting with President Reagan was the high point of the talks he held in the past 3 days with officials in charge of the Middle Eastern affairs in the U.S. Administration and Congress. Ghali said that the talks also dealt with the Lebanese crisis and the latest developments in the current negotiations among Lebanon, Israel, and the United States.

Ghali said further that his talks with U.S. officials dealt with the Palestinian question, means of tackling the situation that emerged from the latest developments in the past few days, and the stands of both King Husayn of Jordan and the PLO on the negotiations. He said that in addition the talks dealt with U.S.-Egyptian cultural relations, particularly U.S. aid to Egypt, which the Congress discussed 2 days ago.

Ghali arrived in Washington on Sunday from New York to deliver to President Ronald Reagan a message from President Mubarak. Earlier, he visited Paris, where he delivered a similar message to French President Mitterrand on the latest developments on the Middle East problem.

Comments on Talks

NC161314 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] London, 16 Apr (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that the plan for Egyptian action in the area is primarily concentrated on getting the Israeli forces out of Lebanon preparatory to their getting out of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip so that a Palestinian administration will replace the Israeli military administration that has controlled the destinies of over 1 million Palestinians for 16 years.

In a statement published in the ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper today, Dr Ghali expressed the hope that the suspension of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks will push the United States toward more work and intensive diplomatic action so that an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon will be achieved as soon as possible.

Dr Ghali pointed out that an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon will be the most useful measure for building confidence in the area and encouraging the moderates in the Arab homeland to push the peace process.

Dr Butrus Ghali said that President Husni Mubarak's message, which he handed to U.S. President Reagan, dealt with the latest developments on the current conditions in the area and that it was part of the continuous consultations between Egypt and the United States. He pointed out that he reviewed the results of the discussions he had in Washington with Omani Sultan Qabus during their stay in the U.S. capital. He said that the review was according to President Mubarak's instructions since the Egyptian and Omani diplomatic activities are being fully coordinated at the highest level.

Ghali affirmed the significance of swift Arab action and pointed out that the election year in the United States will limit the U.S. Government's capability to make diplomatic moves,particularly regarding the Middle East crisis because the pressure groups play a role in these elections.

Ghali also affirmed that Egypt is advocating swift moves be made before the U.S. Administration gets preoccupied with the election campaign.

More Comment on Talks

NC172152 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2017 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr [MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali returned here tonight following his visit to the United States and France which lasted for 10 days during which he handed messages from President Mubarak to Presidents Reagan and Mitterrand.

Upon his arrival, Dr Ghali stated that he had very fruitfultalks with U.S State Department officials as well as with a number of congressmen.

He added that Egypt's interest in the latest developments inthe Middle East crisis, particularly the Lebanese issue and the Palestinian cause, was expressed during the talks. He addedthat the talks also showed Egypt's concern for the efforts beingexerted by the United States to bring about a speedy solutionfor getting the foreign forces out of Lebanon. The talks alsoconsidered the necessary moves regarding the Palestinian issue.

Commenting on Jordan's and the PLO's failure to reach an agreement, Dr Ghali pointed out that Egyptian diplomacy believes there should be more contacts between the Jordanianand the Palestinian sides in order to overcome the difficultiesthat have impeded an agreement between them. Dr Ghali expressed hope that the two sides would come closer in order to have the Reagan peace plan implemented, particularly through a move by the Arab side.

On the postponement of the Arab summit conference called for by King Hassan II of Morroco, Dr Ghali said that there isno need for such a conference as long as the Palestinians and the Jordanians have not reached an agreement.

Regarding the new settlements Israel is continuing to buildin the occupied Arab territories, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that the Egyptian side emphasized its stanceto the U.S. , particularly during the negotiations and the contacts which took place in Washington, New York, and Paris. He said that this stance is based on the need to pressure Israel to stop implementing its policy of building more settlements, which violates international law and UN resolutions.

On his meeting with Sultan Qabus of Oman in the United States, Dr Ghali said that this meeting took place at the direction of President Husni Mubarak. He added that during the meeting, he submitted a report to Sultan Qabus on the talks and the efforts exerted by Egyptian diplomacy in Washington regarding the Middle East issue as part of the diplomatic coordination between Egypt and Oman.

On U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's expected tour of the Middle East, Ghali said that the date of this tour has not yet been fixed. He added that Egypt will welcome this tour if it takes place because it would demonstrate the U.S. interest in the necessity of finding a solution to the Middle East crisis. Dr Ghali concluded by saying that he will submit a report to President Mubarak on the results of his tour of Paris and Washington.

MENA Reports on Habib Meeting With Mubarak

NC161144 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA) — At noon today Pesident Muhammad Husni Mubarak received U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

The meeting, which took place at Al-'Urubah Palace, was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The meeting was also attended by the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, Alfred Atherton.

Following the 90-minute meeting Habib told journalists that he reviewed with President Husni Muabrak the latest developments in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. He said: The negotiations are continuing and our efforts are continuing within the framework of the general principles drawn up by President Reagan.

Philip Habib added: "I was pleased when President Mubarak addressed an invitation to me to come to Egypt to brief him on the latest developments of the situation." Habib said that he will go to Israel this afternoon to complete the U.S. efforts aimed at reaching a solution to the Lebanese problem.

On reiterated reports about the possibility of reaching a solution to the Lebanese question in the next 2 weeks, Philip Habib said: I did not say that.

Departure for Israel Reported

NC161518 Cairo MENA in English 1420 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, April 16 (MENA) — U.S. presidential envoy to the Middle East Philip Habib left here today for Israel at the end of a few hours visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

Habib was seen off by U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton.

UN Journalists' Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC170813 Cairo MENA in English 0750 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, April 17 (MENA) — A delegation of newsmen from different countries arrived here early this morning from Tunisia for a two-day visit within a tour of a number of countries in the area.

The United Nations charged the delegation with the task of collecting direct information on the Palestinian issue. The delegation's tour is in preparation for a U.S. sponsored conference to be held in Paris from August 16 to 27 to find a just, comprehensive solution for the Palestinian cause. The conference would be attended by members of the international organisations, representatives of news agencies and U.N. observers.

Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din is scheduled to meet members of the delegation during their visit to Egypt.

The delegation comprises ten editors-in-chief of widely circulated newspapers in the United States, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Mexico, India and Senegal.

'Ali Meets UN Delegation

NC171528 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 apr 83

[text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with the UN press delegation. The meeting was attended by director of the UN Information Center Raja' Mursi.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained to the delegation Egypt's view on solving the Palestinian issue, Egypt's efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement, and Egypt's stand on U.S President Reagan's initiative and the Fes Arab summit He said that Egypt hopes that consultations between Jordan and the PLO will continue so that it will be possible to push the peace efforts forward.

'Ali Explains Mideast Views

NC171617 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with the members of the international press delegation which is now visiting Cairo as part of a tour of the Arab countries.

During the approximately 2-hour meeting, Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained Egypt's views on the current Middle East situation and the Palestinian and Lebanese issues and Egypt's concept of a solution and the need for the Palestinian people [to attain] their right to self-determination, including their right to establish their own state on their land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

During the meeting, Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed Egypt's hope that the Palestinians and Jordanians will resume their dialogue to prepare for a unified negotiating stand.

He also expressed Egypt's disappointment at Israel's behavior and inhuman practices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and Israel's continued construction of settlements and its actions make it difficult for other parties to participate in the peace process and do not give the Arab states any opportunity to join the negotiations.

On the Egyptian-Arab relations, Kamal Hasan 'Ali emphasized that the relations between Egypt and the Arab states have improved at present in light of the sustained soundness of the Egyptian policy and of the Egyptian efforts to solve the Palestinian issue. He said that there are Arab investments in Egypt and that there are thousands of Egyptian experts in the Arab world. He affirmed that there are no problems that separate Egypt from the Arabs at the present time.

'Ali on Israel's Invasion, Middle East Peace

NC171444 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has emphasized that Israel's invasion of Lebanon has created a dangerous situation and an atmosphere of tension among Egyptian and Arab public opinion and further hardened the stand of all elements, including the moderates.

In a statement today, Kamal Hasan 'Ali pointed out that it was believed that following the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, the Arab states would be prepared to go along with the peace process and Egypt would make efforts to achieve this with the help of the other Arab parties. However, he added, Israel's invasion of Lebanon, its inhuman practices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and its continued construction of settlements are creating more tension and are raising an obstacle on the path of peace.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed in his statement that when Israel withdraws from Lebanon, this move will help in halting the current freeze in the peace efforts. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister also asserted that it is important that an agreement be reached between King Husayn of Jordan and the PLO. He said that U.S. President Reagan's initiative is suitable as a basis for Middle East peace negotiations and that the Fes resolutions contain positive elements.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that the United States is continually required to intensify its efforts for the achievement of peace and that it is necessary that the United States persuade Israel to stop building settlements.

He went on to say that if this is achieved, it will constitute an important turning point, especially because Israel's continued policy and inhuman practices amount to an invitation to foreign intervention in the area.

INA Reports Soviet Official Due in Cairo 19 Apr

JN161843 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Moscow, 16 Apr (INA) — A well-informed source here tonight told INA that Yuriy A. Kirichenko, the chief of the Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, is due in Cairo next Tuesday for a visit of several days to Egypt. The source added that the Soviet official will hold important talks aimed at normalizing the relations between the two countries in the cultural and scientificfields.

The source affirmed that the Soviet official will sign a protocol for 1983-84 on cultural and scientific cooperation to organize the exchange of delegations and experts in these fields.

MENA Reports Summer Time to Begin 1 May

NC171353 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1256 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA) — Summer time in the Arab Republic of Egypt will begin on 1 May, and the clock will be advanced 60 minutes in implementation of Law 51 of 1982.

According to the law, summer time hours will continue in force until the end of September except during the month of Ramadan.

Iranian Battle Losses Reported 15-17 April

Communique No 1,062

JN151445 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,062 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 15 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Every time they are sent back to temptation, they succumb thereto. [Koranic verse]

O great Iraqi people, O brave heroes of our armed forces, O sons of the glorious Arab nation, carriers of the banner of Islam to the nations, and carriers of the banners of the other heavenly religions; O gracious Muslims wherever you are and wherever you pray for love, benevolence and peace: We convey good tidings to you from the battlefronts, where your sons and brothers are fighting charlatanism, jugglery, and treacherous aggression and are triumphing over them so Iraq's banner will remain high and lofty in the defense of rights, sovereignty, peace, and honor.

O brothers, our valiant forces have triumphed. You have triumphed, O glorious Iraqis, once again. You have triumphed. O gracious Arabs, when the Iraqis triumphed on your behalf and in defense of your principles, lands, and honor. The invading aggressors have been defeated and fled the battlefield, leaving behind their dead, weapons, and equipment littering the valleys and plains of cherished Iraq after daring to commit aggression against it. O brothers, we have triumphed and the charlatans have been defeated. God is great, God is great. Thus, O men, O glorious Iraqi women, O brothers, when the martyrs' souls rise to heaven to embrace glory and win martyrdom, the zeal and determination of our fighters increase in their march to raise the glorious Iraqi flag high and to bring down the enemy's flag blotted with disgrace.

The Fakkeh battle was as splendid as the At-Tib battle on 10 April despite its fierceness and sacrifices. It resembled the great battles waged by your forefathers in early Islam in defense of their principles. In this battle the valiant Iraqi men rushed and competed for glory wherever Iraq's flag was hoisted and whereever Iraq's land and honor was safeguarded. They rose to the level of all your hopes. Your sons have triumphed, O brothers, and their foreheads remained lofty and radiant with God's glowing light and with justice and principles. We thank God for everything. We thank God for the splendid victory.

O brothers, you are invited to pray and beseech God to continue granting you victory and might and preserve your country and its people from the greedy devils of earth, and to open the road of peace for you and to have mercy on the martyrs. May God's peace and blessings be upon God's prophet Muhammad. May God's peace be upon His prophets, messengers, and followers. Victory is granted only by Almighty God.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 April 1983

Communique No 1,063

JN161750 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1658 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,063 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 16 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. It is not ye who slew them; it was God. [Koranic verse]

God is great, right has triumphed, and falsehood has fallen. God is great, the enemy was defeated, and its collapsed remnants escaped licking their bleeding wounds. God is great, the righteous soldiers have triumphed, the soldiers of leader Saddam Husayn.

O great Iraqi people, O sons of our glorious Arab nation: Our heroic armed forces, which have been waging a just fight over the past 31 months against the enemy and which will continue to record their heroic feats with the same spirit and valor with which our immortal forefathers fought against the forces of treachery, intrigue, and oppression, will, with the help of God Almighty, continue to confront the aggressor Khomeyniites and record the most remarkable feats of heroism and sacrifice, thereby securing the most brilliant victories over them on land, in the air, and at sea. Utter defeat will continue to pursue charlatan Khomeyni and his despicable henchmen.

The following are the results:

1. The known enemy losses which the enemy's collapsed forces sustained opposite the heroic forces of the Abu 'Ubaydah command in the IV Army Corps sector within the Maysan operational sector, counted by competent quarters, amount to 4,650 dead; a large number of wounded; 17 tanks, 14 armored personnel carriers, 12 large vehicles, 2 missile bases, 2 rocket launchers, and 6 hardware stockpiles destroyed; and large quantities of medium and light-caliber weapons, as well as various types of war materiel and equipment, captured.

2. Proceeding with a big push to inflict further losses and defeats on the aggressors, the heroic eagles of our air force continued their daring combat missions and lightning strikes against the enemy's collapsed formations all day today, and defeated remnants and troop concentrations opposite our positions in the Maysan operational sector. Also, formations of our fighter planes attacked an enemy air defense system in (Al-Khush) and (Al-Hadabah) deep inside enemy territory in the southern operational sector, making direct, painful hits. All of our fighter planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. This evening, an enemy naval target was spotted trying to approach the Iranian oilfield of Nowruz. One of our valiant naval formations pursued it, and at 1915, the enemy target received a direct, effective hit. Our formation returned safely to base.

4. Armed with high combat morale and rushing to perform their duties against the enemy, our heroic helicopter eagles all day today carried out successful strikes against the enemy positions and reinforcements in the areas opposite our units in the Maysan operational sector, scoring direct, effective hits. Fire broke out in

the enemy's positions and equipment. All of our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

5. Our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration opposite our positions east of Basra, killing four, and destroying three infantry positions and one 106-mm gun.

6. Four were killed and one observation post destroyed in the central operational sector.

7. Two were killed in the northern operational sector.

8. The Khomeyniite clique, which is wallowing in a quagmire of vileness and crimes, today shelled Basra, Mandali, Badra, Zurbatiyah, and Ash-Shihabi. The enemy shelling caused some damage to civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 April 1983

Communique No. 1,064

JN171616 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA) — Iraqi naval units this morning destroyed four out of seven Iranian naval targets discovered in the Khowr-e Musa area northeast of the Arab Gulf while approaching Bandar-e Khomeyni. This was announced by Communique No 1,064 issued here tonight.

It added that the four destroyed targets caught fire and sank in the Arab Gulf and that the Iranian enemy was overtaken by great panic and confusion due to the destruction of these four naval targets as well as to the heavy human and material losses.

The communique said that the remaining three targets fled in the direction of Iran's Bandar-e Deylam, and that all the Iraqi naval units which carried out the operation returned safely to base.

The communique indicated that a formation of Iraqi fighter planes at noon today attacked an Iranian Chinook helicopter northeast of the Arab Gulf. It added that the Iranian helicopter was seen crashing ablaze in the Gulf waters, and that the Iraqi formation returned safely to base.

The communique said that upon counting the Iranians who were killed during the recent abortive offensive against the IV Army Corps sector, it was found that 500 Iranian soldiers were killed, in addition to the 4,610 soldiers mentioned in yesterday's military communique on the Iranian losses.

It added that the Iranian artillery today continued shelling Basra and Mandali and their outskirts, killing one woman, and wounding another woman and a child in Basra.

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,064 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If it were our will, we could drown them: Then would there be no helper to hear their cry, nor could they be delivered. [Koranic verse]

Our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their ground, sea, and air activities against the forces of the vile Iranian regime so the brave Iraqis can live in security and peace and their land, sky, and waters can be kept safe from evil, expansion, and aggression. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. This morning our daring naval force discovered seven hostile naval targets in the Khowr-e Musa area northeast of the Arab Gulf. These targets were about to enter Bandar-e Khomeyni. Our heroic naval units confronted and attacked them heavily and bravely, scoring direct and effective hits and destroying and sinking four of them at the following times: The first naval target at 0944 today; the second at 1058 today; the third at 1343 today; and the fourth at 1430 today. The three other targets fled in the direction of Iran's Bandar-e Deylam with disappointment and loss. All our daring naval units returned safely to base, thanks be to God, leaving the destroyed enemy targets to explode, catch on fire, and sink in the Arab Gulf waters after the enemy had been stricken with great panic and confusion due to the destruction of its naval targets and the massive human and material losses it sustained.

By its brave confrontation and heroic operation, our valiant naval force has added a new victory to the victories already scored by our valiant ground and air forces over the enemy in the IV Army Corps sector within the Maysan operation sector in the last few days' battles. From a capable and brave position, the naval force promises God, the people, and the inspired leader Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn to remain strong and honest in defending our waters and coasts and to deal the strongest possible blows to the enemy and its disappointed naval force.

2. At 1202 today a formation of our daring fighter planes attacked an enemy Chinook helicopter northeast of the Arab Gulf near Al-Bakr Port, dealing a direct blow and hitting it accurately and effectively. The enemy helicopter was seen crashing ablaze. All our fighter planes returned safely to base.

3. In addition to the enemy losses mentioned in Communique No 1,063 of 16 April, the enemy sustained further losses opposite our other formations' positions in the IV Army Corps' sector within the Maysan battlefront during the last few days' battles. These amounted to 500 killed, many others wounded, large quantities of various weapons and hardware destroyed, and many serviceable medium and light weapons and military equipment seized.

4. Today the spiteful Iranian regime continued its intermittent artillery shelling of Basra and Mandali and their outskirts. The savage enemy shelling led to the martyrdom of one woman and the injury of another woman and one child in Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 April 1983

Saddam Husayn Addresses Islamic Conference

JN161306 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1105 GMT 16 Apr 83

[President Saddam Husayn's 16 April speech at Islamic Popular Conference, currently convening in Baghdad — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers, it is with great pleasure that Baghdad hosts you as scholars and brothers who have come here from all over the world to say what you believe is useful, appropriate, and just. We welcome all of you.

I wish that I could have attended your conference before today, but it seems that the brothers in Iran timed their aggression with the convening of your conference. As you know, when the men offer their pure blood in defense of their honor and land, and all the holy places of this land, we are dutybound to be with them. That's why we could not come to your conference earlier to hear what you have to say and to give you information we think is suitable. Despite this, the speech by 'Izzat Ibrahim [Iraq Revolution Command Council vice chairman] represents our view, that of the Command, the Government, and the Iraqi people.

I have learned that you have decided to send an invitation to Iranian scholars. You have done well. When circumstances become suitable, Islamic law calls for a meeting of all Muslims to listen to both sides, to know what is right and what is wrong. On our part, we have no bias toward any Islamic, logical, and humanitarian idea. We think your decision contains all the meanings to which we have referred — the Islamic logical and humanitarian meanings.

Despite the fact that we are in a state of war — and this may be contradictory to international standards but not to our Islamic and Arab standards — we say that we are ready to have even Khomeyni come to this place, [applause] as was the case when this land and this people hosted him for 14 years. Perhaps by hosting him again, he would remember his first time in Iraq and would pave the way for opportunities of good, peace, and amity to all. More than this, which perhaps may be contradictory to international norms, and the responsibility of states and the leaders of these states, I say that we agree to any decision you may adopt at this conference. From here, we give our approval at the highest level of authority in the state. [applause]

My apologies to the Iraqi people, to the experts of international law, and those who are dealing with politics and law, as perhaps they will criticize Saddam Husayn, saying: How can a president of a state give an approval in advance on a matter which he had not read about and knows nothing about?

I comment by saying that this good step, which came from Muslims all over the world, must be a sound opinion beause they have been unanimously adopted. [applause] Even if we have a different opinion, we do not believe that our opinion would be sounder than that of this group. If everyone believes that his opinion replaces the opinion of all, then no one of us can interact or be in harmony with others.

Islamic history and the interrelationship among Muslim leaders, intellectuals, and commanders, including the relationship between Muslim leaders and the noble Prophet Muhammad, God bless him and grant him salvation, all make us follow the right path. We all know that the noble prophet, before making a decision, used to consult his companions. Islamic history also tells us that the companions used to ask the prophet whether his opinion was his or came from God. If he said it was his, then the decision was discussed. The prophet's opinion was often replaced by other opinions so long as it was his opinion that was the subject of discussion.

Iraq has nothing corrupt to hide and has nothing to be afraid of. Iraq wants to be secure. We do not think that the Muslims now convening in Baghdad, or Muslims in other places, would like to see Iraq insecure. Iraq wants to defend its international borders, and I do notbelieve that you would like to see Iraq's land occupied by others. Iraq wants a cease-fire. Iraq wants peace. When these are the declared and undeclared goals of Iraq, I do not think any Muslim, here or elsewhere, can be against them, because our needs are justified and logical. Nevertheless, anything that is accepted by the Muslims we accept, and in any form. Accordingly, we proposed arbitration during the Islamic conference, which convened in At-Ta'if, and proposed it again to all international bodies.

We told Iranian officials: If you wish to seek international arbitration, you can go ahead and choose; and if you wish to seek Muslims arbitration, you can also choose. Despite their bitter stands and behavior, we remained unaffected due to the principles in which we believe and that we respect. We have done no harm to any prisoner, nor have we done harm to any woman or child. Furthermore, only in emergencies did we hit certain targets. [sentence as heard]

They began the war by shelling peaceful towns. When we successfully, praise be to God, managed to check the aggression and to defeat their army, we did so only to defend our border towns, which are very close [to Iranian artillery]. Basra, for example, is less than 20 km away from the borders. It is a big town, second only to Baghdad. It is our important industrial center and our sole outlet to the world.

Nonetheless, when we sensed that the Muslims wanted us to withdraw from Iranian territory — despite our belief that if we pulled our forces back to the border, the Iranian artillery would pound residential areas, as was the case at the beginning of the war—we responded to Muslim opinion, to world public opinion, and to Iranian public opinion and withdrew to the borders. When we pulled our forces back to the borders, Iranian artillery resumed the shelling our towns on a daily basis. We kept addressing appeals and warnings from time to time so our armed forces would not be forced to retaliate. Some have mistakenly believed that all our peace calls stemmed from weakness. Had this been the case, we would never have made such calls. The proof is the current visible status quo. On the bases of Islamic values, logic, and reason, the Iranian officials should have asked themselves the following question: How is it that Iraq, whose population is about one quarter of that of Iran, has triumphed over their expansionist, aggressive leanings despite the fact that their artillery —due to Iraq's small area compared with that of Iran —is daily shelling many Iraqi towns? How did that happen?

The Iranian officials should have asked themselves this question and should have answered it directly and with all wisdom. They should say: It is because right is not on our side.

One of your ulemas from Egypt said that victory should not lead us into error and capability, which is linked to right,andshould not lead us to deception. Peace should be achieved soon because the longer the war drags on, the more blood will be shed.

Baghdad is yours. Needless to say, you are the type who do not appease authority but side with justice wherever you may be, in your country, or in any other place. Therefore, Baghdad is a place for Muslims to gather and agree to say whatever they believe right and legal. At any rate, you will remain in our souls and hearts. Thank you.

You are most welcome and I wish you success in safeguarding dignity and honor and in achieving security and stability everywhere.

I wish you continued health. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

IV Army Corps Commander Refutes Iranian Claims

JN161312 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Al-'Amarah, southern Iraq, 16 Apr (INA) — Staff Major General Hisham al-Fakhri, commander of the IV Army Corps, has said that in its latest aggression against the Maysan sector, the Iranian regime threw in all it could in an attack along a 30-km front.

In a statement to INA, he described the recent battles in this sector as fierce and from which the Iranian enemy could only, as usual, reap disappointment. The IV Army Corps commander, whose forces valiantly repulsed the Iranian aggression, refuted Iranian claims of destroying brigades belonging to his formations and the entry of Iranian forces 30 km deep inside Iraqi territories. He described these claims as characteristic of the Iranian regime's charlatanism, jugglery, and falsification. He added that if we calculated the areas which this regime claims to have occupied,these Tehran dwarves would have ended up in central Europe.

He said that the entry of Iranian forces into Iraqi territories is a false claim and will remain a dream that the Iranians will not be allowed to realize. He recalled similar Iranian claims by saying that such claims have become characteristic of this regime. (They have) an inferiority complex that urges them to occupy an Iraqi police station or a border village to quench their desires.

The commander of the IV Army Corps affirmed that the Iranian Army, which is being forced into this war, suffers from the domination of the Tehran rulers. He said that some day this army will crush them and preserve what is left for the Iranian people.

The IV Army Corps commander praised the bravery of the Iraqi forces in confronting the latest Iranian attack. He said that the Iraqi forces fought the battles of the Maysan sector having only one option: victory or martyrdom. He warned the Iranian regime against contemplating another aggression against Iraq. He said that such aggression would only reap the bitter defeats of previous battles. He said that the results of the recent battle and the number of captured, killed, and wounded Iranians, and the quantity of captured equipment, is clear proof of their grave losses and proof of the Iranian regime's waning morale.

Islamic Conference Invites Iranian Delegation

JN161215 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA) — The Islamic Popular Conference resumed its meeting this morning by convening its seventh session which was presided over by Professor As'ad Madnali from India. Shaykh Nasir al-'Abbudi, from Saudi Arabia, was named vice president of the session.

Several delegations to the Islamic Popular Conference called on Iran to send, as soon as possible, a religious delegation to participate in the activities and discussions of the conference in preparation for new moves to end the Iraq-Iran war.

Mediates in Gulf War

JN180842 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA) — An authoritative source of the Popular Islamic Conference has said that the peace and reconciliation committee, which has been formed by the conference, will leave for Iran immediately upon the approval of the Iranian government. The formation of the nine-member committee was announced here last night.

The source told INA early today that Baghdad will house the committee's headquarters, at least for the time being, but added that the committee is free to choose any other country it deems would facilitate its mission.

The committee, which has had President Saddam Husayn's prior approval of all the resolutions which it will adopt while discharging its mission, has been authorized to meet with the two countries' leaders and ask them to directly negotiate a quick, just, and honorable solution that will preserve the rights of the two sidesand restore good relations between them.

The resolutions, under which the committee has been formed, stipulates that either of the two warring sides' failure to positively respond to the committee's task or yield to the Muslims' unanimous will, as well as either of the two sides' persistence in continuing the war, will have God's judgment applied to it as given in the holy Koran, and will be boycotted politically, culturally, and economically.

The resolution also stipulates that the committee can seek the help of the other ulemas and intellectuals who are experienced, sincere, and zealous if this is deemed necessary.

Lebanese Defense Minister Arrives in Amman
JN171325 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at his office this afternoon Lebanese Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri and an accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Lebanese ambassador in Amman, and the Jordanian ambassador in Beirut.

The commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces received in his office at the Armed Forces' headquarters this afternoon Lebanese Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri and accompanying military delegation. The meeting was attended by the Jordanian chief of staff and the Lebanese ambassador in Amman.

The Lebanese defense minister arrived in Amman this morning at the head of a military delegation on an official visit of several days to Jordan during which he will meet a number of senior officials and visit some military positions and institutes.

'Isam Khuri and the accompanying military delegation were received by the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the chief of staff, senior officers, and the Lebanese ambassador in Amman.

INA: Jordanian Envoy Pays Surprise Visit to Fes
JN161012 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Rabat, 16 Apr (INA) — The INA correspondent here has learned that a Jordanian envoy delivered a message to Moroccan King Hassan II from King Husayn of Jordan last night. It has been learned that the message, which was delivered by Jordanian Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, deals with the latest developments in the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, the question of their resumption and the current Arab situation. Abu 'Awdah left Fes last night at the end of a 1-day surprise visit to Morocco.

It is worth mentioning that Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the PNC Foreign Relations Committee, was present in Fes during the Jordanian information minister's visit. Khalid al-Hasan is scheduled to deliver a message from Yasir 'Arafat to King Hassan on the same subject.

AR-RA'Y: Ambassadors Recalled to Foreign Ministry
JN161046 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] A royal decree has been issued approving the Cabinet decision to transfer the following ambassadors to the Foreign Ministry in Amman.

1. 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali from Washington.

2. Dr Hani Khasawinah from Moscow.

3. Tahir al-Masri from Paris.

4. Hani Khalifah from Madrid.

5. Ibrahim 'Izz ad-Din From London.

6. Walid ad-Durrah from New Delhi.

Reportage on 18 April Explosion at U.S. Beirut Embassy

Voice of Lebanon Report

NC181328 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1259 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Excerpt] According to the latest information about the explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut at 1300 this afternoon, 20 employees of the embassy and 5 marines were killed. Forty persons were wounded and 30 cars were burned. A number of bodies remain under the debris.

Investigative sources have confirmed what the Voice of Lebanon reported in its 1415 newscast to the effect that a mined car carrying a fake diplomatic plate crashed the embassy's entrance and reached the eastern wing where the explosion occurred. The driver of the crashing car was killed inside it. The explosives were estimated at 150 kilograms.

A security source reported a short while ago that the security forces detained two cars suspected of having a connection with the incident.

The reports further confirmed what we said in the same newscast to the effect that Ambassadors Dillon and Draper are supervising the rescue operations in which various security quarters — police, gendarms, security forces, and multinational forces are participating.

A correspondent of the Voice of Lebanon has inspected those who escaped the incident particularly Ambassador Habib's secretary-,who was slightly wounded. She is now in hotel [name indistinct]. The secretary told the radio correspondent that a large number of the dead are still under the debris in the embassy, that she saw the walls of the wings collapse above the heads of the embassy employees, and that she had miraculously escaped.

The injured are being moved to various hospitals in the capital and particularly the military hospital at sea and the French hospital ship.

Beirut Domestic Report

NC181142 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] At 1305 today, a strong explosion occurred in the American Embassy's compound. Fires broke out and clouds of smoke billowed in the sky of the capital. Ambulances and fire engines raced to the embassy to remove the wounded and put out the fires.

According to initial and unofficial information, the eastern section of the embassy building has collapsed. Security forces also set out to the area and cut the roads leading to the embassy. Work began immediately on moving the wounded to the hospitals.

According to information available from security sources and from our correspondent who moved to the scene of the incident, the number of casualties is not yet known.

Booby-Trapped Car

NC181201 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1148 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] At 1305 today, a booby-trapped car exploded close to a Lebanese Army roadblock near the U.S. Embassy building in 'Ayn al-Muraysan [in Beirut]. According to initial information, one Lebanese Army soldier was killed and five others were seriously wounded. The eastern section of the U.S. Embassy also collapsed and fire broke out in the embassy.

Immediately afterward, firemen and civil defense teams rushed to the scene of the incident and began extinguishing the fire and evacuating people from inside the building. Meanwhile, a Lebanese Army unit, a [U.S.] Marines force, and the Squad 16 [police force]cordoned off the area and cut the roads leading to it.

Sounds of ambulance sirens are heard now in the area. A military expert has arrived at the site of the explosion.

According to eyewitnesses, there is a high number of causualties. However, there is no full information as yet. We will provide you with further information as it arrives.

American Diplomats Unhurt

NC181213 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1208 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Dear listeners, the Internal Security Forces reported a short while ago that the explosive device was placed on the columns of the ground floor in the American Embassy building. Most of the casualties occurred in the consultate wing of the embassy. The floors above this wing have cracked and sustained great damage. Initial reports say that there are no casualties among the American diplomats.

Embassy Casualties Named

NC181325 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1314 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] We have just received the following information: David Roberts, the official in charge of security at the U.S. Embassy, has been injured and removed to a hospital. Clemence 'Azur, Henry Hanna, Bob Asun, Ahmad Zurayq, Hafiz Farah, Munir Rinu, Eleonore Shadid, Tadrus Antrayan, Simon Bismaralli, and Su'ad Ayub have also been injured.

'Islamic Struggle' Admits Blast

NC181209 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] AFP reports that it received a telephone call from a person claiming to belong to an organization calling itself the Islamic Struggle [Al-Jihad al-Islami], which claims responsibility for the explosion that took place near the Army blockade. The caller added that the operation was code named "The Dawn Operation."

It is recalled that this organization claimed responsibility for the attack against a security force on 16 March.

Paris on Jihad Claim

LD181214 Paris Domestic Service In French 1200 GMT 18 Apr 83

(Excerpts] An anonymous correspondent has just called AFP to claim responsibility for the attack on behalf of the Islamic Struggle organization, an attack which, according to this mysterious correspondent, is called the Dawn Operation. A clarification: This organization has already claimed responsibility for the grenade attack last month on American Marines of the multinational force.

Al-Jumayyil on Rescue Operations

NC181240 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has given immediate instructions to speed up the rescue and first aid operations and to recruit members of the civil defense to help in these operations. He requested the Army commander and Army chief of staff to supervise the operation and to initiate an immediate investigation into the incident. He also ordered that helicopters be mobilized in the rescue operations.

Further DS Report

NC181314 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Lebanese and U.S. helicopters are participating in the evacuation of casualties from the U.S. Embassy building. Until this hour, no final figure can be given on the great number of casualties. Available information on the nature of the incident so far says that a booby-trapped car with a false diplomatic plate rammed the building.

A Lebanese Army force under the Army Chief of Staff General Nadim al-Hakim, detachments from the Internal Security Forces, and units of the French contigent are working on the scene. Lebanese medical centers have been alerted by the higher echelons to treat the injured and ensure prompt aid.

Marines in Diving Operations

NC181330 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1310 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Excerpt] It has been reported that the Marines are carrying out diving operations in the sea to lift bodies thrown into the sea as a result of the explosion.

The embassy has more than 150 Lebanese and U.S. employees.

French Soldier Injured in Explosion in Capital

NC172046 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] In the security domain, an explosion occurred at 2045 near the Shatila traffic circle. The explosion was directed against a position of the French force operating in Beirut. A French soldier was wounded in the explosion and was immediately taken to the hospital.

In another development, the clashes between Ash-Shuwayfat and Kafr Shima have ceased.

U.S. Marine Uninjured After Attack 17 April

NC180920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] A spokesman for the U.S. Marines Command said that an unknown armed man yesterday evening opened fire on an American soldier. The bullet penetrated his trousers without injuring him. The soldier returned the fire but failed to identify the assailant or assailants. This incident took place 15 minutes after a grenade was hurled at a French post near the Shatila camp, where a French soldier was slightly injured.

Security sources say that an explosive device went off this morning in front of a grocery shop in An-Najmah square in Sidon at the beginning of the Jazzin road, killing 'Ali 'Antar az-Zaknun and injuring Muhammad al-Ghazzawi. The sources said the explosion occurred early in the morning when municipal garbage collector 'Antar az-Zaknun tried to remove the garbage in which the explosive device was placed. The owner of an adjacent shop, Muhammad al-Ghazzawi, was seriously injured. Four shops and five vehicles were damaged.

Habib Cairo Remarks Reported Causing Concern

NC171219 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] U.S. Presidential envoy Philip Habib's statements in Cairo and his announcement that he does not expect an early agreement on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon have cast shadows of doubt on the U.S. efforts which Habib is undertaking in the area and strengthened fears that the tripartite negotiations will return to a new stage of intransigence following the flexibility which characterized the recent rounds of negotiations.

The midday journal [1130 GMT] radio news program learned a while ago that U.S. Presidential envoy Philip Habib will return to Beirut this afternoon and that he will meet at 1730 with Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim. Ambassador Morris Draper, the head of the U.S. delegation in the tripartite negotiations, and his Assistant Christopher Ross will attend the meeting.

VOH Quotes Source on Salim Letter to Shultz

NC171452 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Apr 83

[text] In Beirut it has been learned from a well-informed source

that Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Dr Elie Salim today summoned U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon and handed him a letter for his U.S. counterpart, George Shultz. According to the well-informed source, the letter touches on some urgent matters and contains Lebanon's viewpoints on some topics of the negotiations under way between Lebanon and Israel with U.S. participation.

According to the newspaper L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, Minister Salim put several questions to his U.S. counterpart about the stance that the United States will take on the Lebanese issue following the failure of the Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement, and about the new proposals which the United States will forward to take the negotiations out of their present impasse in order to promote peace.

SANA: Syrian Forces Carry Out Tactical Exercise

JN161557 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 16 Apr (SANA) — One of our combat formations carried out a tactcal exercise here today in which various forces participated with the cooperation of Air Force fighter planes and helicopters.

The practical implementation stage of the exercise was attended by General Mustaf Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Syrian Army and Armed Forces and defense minister; Major General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff for operations and training affairs; Dr Rif'at al-Asad, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command; and several officers of the general command of the Army and Armed Forces.

The practical stages of the exercise included occupying certain lines, striking at enemy capabilities, and creating suitable combat conditions through the cooperation of various ground and air forces.

TISHRIN Says Syria May Keep Forces in Lebanon

JN161810 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] In Damascus, the latest political developments imply that Syria will not easily agree to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, and will not even agree to discuss the issue before the withdrawal of the last Israeli soldier from Lebanon.

This was explictly pointed out in the editorial of TISHRIN written by its editor in chief, who said that Syria might find itself forced to announce a decision to keep its forces in Lebanon.

Damascus Radio Cites TASS on Mideast Events

JN180712 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] TASS has reaffirmed that Syria is not and will not be alone in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism. Syria, TASS added, can rely on the support and backing of the socialist countries, led by the USSR, and on the solidarity of the peace- and freedom-loving countries.

TASS said that President Hafiz al-Asad reflected the Syrian people's ideas and determination to confront the Zionist aggression when he said: We are confident of triumphing over the enemy because we have loyal friends, the socialist countries. TASS pointed out that Syria, which is celebrating its national day, is on the frontline against Israel, which, fully backed by imperialism, is preparing to launch a new aggression against Syria.

TASS condemned Washington's policy against Syria, adding that Washington is opposed to Syria's principled stand in confronting the aggression, in firmly rejecting all capitulatory plans being hatched by the United States and Israel to impose hegemony on the region, and in strongly supporting the Palestinian people's inalienable and national rights.

AL-'AMAL Cited on Upcoming Syrian-USSR Meeting

JN160602 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Commenting on reports published yesterday in AL-'AMAL, the mouthpiece of the Lebanese Phalangist Party, saying that a Syrian-Soviet summit will be held soon to confront the U.S. policy in the region, an official Syrian soruce said that meetings and consultations between Syria and the Soviet Union at the highest levels are natural and normal in view of the close relations and the treaty of friendship and cooperation which exist between them.

Reagan Sends Al-Asad Message on National Day

JN171314 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Syria's national day, in which he emphasized his country's determination to continue its efforts for holding expanded negotiations on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution No 242, which deals with the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights and which, as President Ronald Reagan put it, aims at establishing real peace in the region.

Habib Continues Shuttle Diplomacy on Talks

Habib-Shamir Meeting

TA151235 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Report by political correspondent David Essing]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has told Habib that the sides had reached the stage where all the elements of an agreement must be considered as a package deal. This, he stressed, applies particularly to security arrangements. Such issues as the status of Major Haddad and joint military patrols are of paramount importance, Shamir said, adding: One will be influenced by what Israel gets in the other. The foreign minister raised the recent harrassment of merchants in Lebanon for dealing with Israel. Shamir said this was unacceptable for two countries which are going to have mutual ties. Habib quoted the Lebanese as saying the harrassment was not directed against Israel. Shamir requested that this will not be repeated again.

Sees No Early Withdrawal

TA161609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] U.S. envoy Philip Habib has denied reports that he is expecting an agreement to be reached within 2 weeks over the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. In an interview granted to the Egyptian news agency, Habib said: I never said that.

Habib returned to Israel this afternoon from Egypt after having met with President Mubarak.

Positions Said More Flexible

TA151959 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Israel and Lebanon have made their positions in the negotiations more flexible in order to facilitate a rapid conclusion of the talks and the signing of an agreement between them. Today, too, at the end of another round of talks by Philip Habib with the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the minister of defense, the assessment was given that the agreement with Lebanon was very close. There was also talk about the possibility of a visit by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the area if an arrangement is obtained soon. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports:

[Ronen] When Philip Habib reached the foreign minister's office for the umpteenth time, it seemed that this time matters were really close to being concluded; at the last and decisive stage of the talks. Another shuttle from Beirut to Jerusalem, another reply from Amin al-Jumayyil, and a reply to that reply from Menahem Begin and it will be possible to sign.

On the main point at issue, Sa'd Haddad's status, a compromise is emerging. The Lebanese are prepared for Haddad to remain in a command post in southern Lebanon. The Israelis are prepared to discuss the matter of Haddad within the general context of the arrangement. They want to close all the other clauses that have already been agreed upon by Israel and Lebanon.

After that, a fairly long meeting with the prime minister with the participation of the foreign minister and the defense minister occurred. Here, too, the feeling was that we are facing the conclusion. The Israelis, the Lebanese, and the Americans want to push the negotiations on to completion, with the Lebanese and the Americans convinced that Syria will also accept the agreement and agree to remove its forces from all of Lebanon. Habib is leaving for Beirut again. On Tuesday, 19 April, he will return to participate in the negotiations in Netanya. If everything goes smoothly, the agreement between Israel and Lebanon should be reached very soon.

Habib-Arens Meeting

TA171843 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT17 Apr 83

[Text] U.S. special envoy Philip Habib met today with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. The two discussed negotiations with Lebanon, including the status of south Lebanese militia leader Sa'd Haddad and security arrangements Israel is demanding in the south. After his meeting with Arens, Habib left for Beirut. He is scheduled to meet there this evening with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim.

Officials Suggest Habib Mission May Be Failure

TA171139 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Apr 83 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel is suggesting a new formula to solve the problem of Major Sa'd Haddad: The commander of southern Lebanon will be a senior Lebanese officer, while Sa'd Haddad will be the commander of the territorial brigade that will ensure the security in the security zone.

Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and special envoy Philip Habib do not accept this new proposal of Israel at the moment, but Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made it clear in their talk with Habib on Friday: Israel will not compromise anymore.

At the end of Habib's meetings with Begin, Shamir, and Arens in Jerusalem on Friday, the senior political echelon speculated that Habib's mission to Beirut has failed. The special U.S. envoy did not succeed in his talks with President al-Jumayyil in advancing the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon.

A senior political source in the prime minister's office said yesterday: The last shuttle round of envoy Habib did not fulfill the expectations. If somebody had any hopes, he was disappointed. We heard neither new ideas from Habib, nor answers to questions Israel posed for him and asked him to look into in Beirut.

From Habib's report it transpired that he did not reach an agreement with President al-Jumayyil regarding Maj Haddad's

status. Habib again presented the stands of Lebanon, according to which Beirut is ready to integrate Haddad in staff duties,but not as the commander of the force in the security zones. The Lebanese now accept the principle that Haddad will continue to be present in the area but only as an intelligence and coordination officer, under the command of a senior Lebanese officer.

As a compromise, Israel is ready to go half way in its readiness to look into the possibility that Haddad will be given the command of the territorial brigade in southern Lebanon 2 or 3 years later, and to see whether during this period the Lebanese Army will be ready to accept the duties of security in southern Lebanon. [last sentence as published]

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made it clear in his talks with Habib that Israel sees the rejection of Haddad for a command post as a rejection of the political and security cooperation between the two countries in the future.

Philip Habib returned to Israel last night after a short visit to Cairo where he met with President Mubarak. Today Habib will meet with the head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations, David Kimche, and his team. With them he will look into all the points of dispute and agreement in the negotiations. Habib is supposed to return to Beirut and to continue his shuttle trip, in order to clarify Israel's negative and unequivocal stand on the Lebanese proposals concerning Haddad.

Reagan 'Secret Promises' to Jordan Reported

TA171004 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Apr 83 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Senior officials in Jerusalem confirmed for the first time that Israel knew about a secret promise by President Reagan to return Jordanian sovereignty to Judaea and Samaria in return for King Husayn's joining the political process, and a promise on his part that a Palestinian-PLO state would not be established in the area.

MA'ARIV learned that Israel knew about some of the U.S. Administration's promises to Husayn, and that was one of the reasons for the total rejection of the Reagan plan, without positively considering accepting parts of it.

Israel, it was reported yesterday, preferred not to embarass the President by revealing the secret promises he gave to Husayn. However, Israel made it clear from the first moment that this plan — which, in Israel's opinion deviates from the Camp David accord — could not be a basis for political negotiations.

According to information received in Jerusalem, President Reagan promised Husayn to shorten the interim period between establishing the autonomy and the final decision on the status of the territories from 5 to 3 years. At the end of this period the United States undertook to give unqualified support to Jordan's stand that the control of Judaea and Samaria be returned to Jordan and the situation revert to the way it was before 5 June 1967, with minor border changes. The United States, it was learned, showed readiness to consider, to a certain extent, Israel's sensitivity to its security on the eastern border, together with readiness for a compromise on the question of Jerusalem so that the city would remain unified.

Senior sources in Jerusalem estimate that the U.S. Administration, in the framework of the plan to return Israel to its 1967 borders, intended only minute border changes, such as in the area of Latrun.

In Jerusalem it is noted that the Reagan plan, as it emerges from his secret promises to Husayn, is nothing but an attempt to implement UN Security Council resolution 242 and the Rogers plan. As part of this plan, the administration decided, as the first step, to pressure Israel to freeze the settlements while threatening a security and economic embargo if Israel refused to carry out those decisions. According to this information, in the second stage, after ensuring Husayn's participation, the administration intended to step up its pressure for a primary evacuation of Israeli settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

Political sources in Jerusalem do not treat seriously the U.S. denials of the publication in the WALL STREET JOURNAL about the secret promises of Reagan to Husayn. According to one,this plan was hatched behind Israel's back last August as an expression of protest by the U.S. President over the Israeli air raids on Beirut.

In Israel it is known that Assistant Secretary of State Nicholas Veliotes and special envoy Philip Habib were the main partners in formulating the plan and in the secret contacts between the administration and Husayn.

Three POW's in Syria Given Red Cross Aid

TA152011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] The International Red Cross spokesman in Geneva has said that a delegation from his organization visited the three Israeli prisoners being held in Syria. The spokesman noted that the delegation included a doctor and she gave the prisoners letters and parcels from their families in Israel.

Explosion in Sidon Leaves One Dead, Two Injured

TA181109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] An explosive charge blew up in the center of Sidon this morning. A local inhabitant was killed and two others were injured. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the 5-kg explosive blew up in a commercial center and caused great damage. The IDF and Haddad's forces are searching the area.

Navon: Nothing Can Guarantee Galilee Safety

TA161714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Israeli President Yitzhaq Navon has said that there is no solution that will guarantee that Katyushas will never be fired at

Galilee, and Israel must not aim at such a solution so that citizens will not be disappointed. Navon believes the conditions required for an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon are security arrangements that will guarantee that the area north of Israel is free of terrorists' organization.

The president also said that he would have resigned from the presidency if a state inquiry commission into the matter of Sabra and Shatila had not been established.

Shultz Promises Arens U.S. Aid on Lavi Project

TA171415 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Today U.S. Secretary of State Shultz gave Defense Minister Arens a message through U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, according to which the United States has given U.S. factories permission to contact Israel in order to facilitate the production of three main systems in the Lavi aircraft. This has been reported by the defense minister's adviser on communications affairs. The development of these three systems will accelerate the process of building the plane.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal says that this is a question of systems connected with the development of materials used for the production of the plane's wing and various parts ofits control systems. Last week the defense minister told his counterpart, Casper Weinberger, of the urgent need for a response to Israel's appeal on this matter. In his letter of reply, Shultz writes that facilitating contracts with Israel was also agreed to by Weinberger. Last Friday Arens phoned Shultz and explained that Israel needed the Lavi urgently, and that the administrative delay was damaging it.

Officials Give Independence Day Speeches

Begin Speech

TA171933 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1830 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Menahem Begin on the occasion of Independence Eve; place not given — live]

[Text] Citizens of Israel: We have reached the 35th year of the nation's independence. During the 35 years since we became free people in the homeland, our nation with all its classes and sects has done great and devoted deeds in all the strata of national and state life, throughout Eretz Yisra'el, in the Negeg, in Judaea and Samaria, in the Gaza district, and in the Golan Heights, in town and village, in establishing a fighting, defensive force, a devoted, loyal one filled with the spirit of heroism and sacrifice.

At the beginning of the national renaissance we were 650,000 Jews in Israel. Today we are about 3.5 million. Let them increase. This is a relative increase in the population which has very little precedent, if there is anything at all resembling it in our time. Our liberated nation has the absolute right to be proud of its achievements.

But the truth demands that we note that the solution of many problems, in the political-security field and in the socioeconomic field is still ahead of us. We must guarantee the fruits of victory in the justified defensive war against the terrorist organizations which established in Lebanon a state within a state, turned it into an anti-Israeli terrorist center, and for many years carried out atrocities against the civilian population — men, women, and children — in the north of the country and in its rear regions, even against Jews in the Diaspora. The IDF damaged the infrastructure that was established by the terrorists over many years inside Lebanon and led to their mass dispersal to various countries.

We did not go out to fight Lebanon, but against a cruel enemy concentrated there and which turned it into the main base for its attacks. We announced, therefore, from the beginning, and today we repeat our determination in the name of Israel, that we do not want any Lebanese territory. However, it is our right, particularly since we know and remember what we were called upon to sacrifice in defending our attacked nation; it is our full right to insist that all the essential arrangements are agreed upon and made so that the aggression against Galilee and its inhabitants, against the state and its citizens, against the nation and its sons, will not be repeated. We will not deny at all that the political campaign that followed the defense campaign is also difficult, but it is our duty to conduct it from the recognition of the national importance of the objectives and its justice. Every citizen and every friend will remember that we aspire to give our nation and our neighbors peace, and the condition for the existence of peace is, after all, security.

Thus on our northern border and thus on our other borders. In the peace treaty with Egypt, for which we made many sacrifices, security arrangements tailored to the open desert conditions were made. There is no doubt that, not through any fault of ours, there has been a deterioration in the relations between us and Egypt, which is taking the form of a halt to the negotiations over the second part — in fact the first part of the Camp David agreement — and grave words of condemnation by people and bodies against Israel, its nation, and its government. We do not lower our heads at these insults, but the security arrangements exist and they spring from the peace treaty that was signed between the sides. It is a great rule in relations between nations: Agreements must be kept.

Because of this, we are also scrupulously insisting on the contents of the Camp David agreement with regard to the Arabs, the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. The commitment that we took upon ourselves is autonomy; not self-determination that was given to the Arabs in 21 sovereign states in a territory of 12 million square kilometers. The difference between these two terms was made completely clear during the days of prolonged deliberations as well as 4 years ago. We then rejected the original proposal submitted to us, which would have meant a state called a Palestinian state which would have been a constant danger to the existence of the Jewish state, as was specifically written in the well-known charter.

Whoever has open eyes will find it sufficient to look at a map of Eretz Yisra'el in order to know the dimensions of the danger to our future if the 22nd Arab state had been established between

the sea and Jordan, whether it is or is not connected with a federation with the Hashemite kingdom. Of course the negotiations over the implementation of autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Samaria, Judaea, and the Gaza District must be resumed, for it is intended for them. But the basis for these negotiations can be one and one alone: the agreement signed by Egypt and Israel, with the United States as a witness. The resumption of the negotiations should not and cannot be dependent on the freezing of Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria,and the Gaza District. This settlement's legality springs from our undeniable right to Eretz Yisra'el, and that right, as we have said to all elements at every opportunity, is combined with our right to security. It is not only the settlers who would have had no security if the positive and vital campaign had been stopped. For the country's citizens in other parts of the country there would also have been no security. Our settlement is not an obstacle to peace. It is a condition for security; as I said, it is a condition for peace.

As I move on, citizens of Israel, to the problems of the economy and society, I must again speak to you in all sincerity. These are serious problems. These days there is a crisis not only here, but a crisis in all the countries of the world, even the developed and rich ones. However, a nation never despairs because of problems — it overcomes them. Have we not known difficulties in the past, even more than those in our times? We overcame them. We will also overcome the pains we share today and we will go the distance. We will continue with the Project Rehabilitation campaign. Much has been done to release inhabitants from many quarters from the density of living quarters that was insufferable, but the road is still long and there is much work to be done. The comprehensive effort will continue until its conclusion, until all Israeli citizens are guaranteed living and environmental conditions worthy of civilized people. Enormous means are required to complete this campaign. We are trying to obtain them, with the aid of the Jewish people. This is, perhaps, the main problem in the social campaign to cancel the gaps, to bring hearts closer, to deepen the recognition of the unity of the people. These moral values will also permit us to create a lifestyle worthy of an ancient nation with a great culture from which other nations have drawn inspiration.

Let the love of Israel and the recognition of man's value live deep in the heart of us all. Let us foster the attitude of respect and affection for every man, women, old person, and child. We will respect each other and our rivals. All violence in any form whatsoever will be driven out of our hearts. It is, indeed, true, that there have been grave phenomena, even terrible ones, within us; but we can always turn over a new page, whether in the life of the individual or the life of us all. Let us turn our backs on the negative phenomena that have existed in the past. Let us all make a constant effort to rise onto the path of national renewal, for a life of mutual respect and the maintenance of moral values thanks to which we came out from slavery to freedom. A happy Independence Day to all of Israel.

Navon Speech

TA171855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1745 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Address by President Yitzhaq Navon to the nation on the occasion of Independence Day 1983; place not given — live]

[Text] Dear citizens, good evening. Last night marked the beginning of Remembrance Day. This evening Independence Day begins. The transition is sharp and extreme, but there is logic to the proximity of the events. This morning we united around our dear ones who have fallen and we are now marking their falling. Without them, there would be no independence and no Independence Day. No distinction can be drawn between them. We have sent out faithful condolences to all the bereaved families, from the War of Independence and prior to it, up to the Peace for Galilee war — Jews and Druze, Circassian, and Bedouins and others. We bear within our hearts the memory of the fallen with esteem, with sorrow, and with pride. We send wishes for a speedy recovery of the wounded and may the blessings be strong and may courage find the disabled, who for long periods of time bear on their bodies the signs of the wars. We will work for their rehabilitation with all our heart and being.

At the center of the past year's events was the Peace for Galilee war, in which our soldiers showed courage, sacrifice, and devotion, and a profound humanistic approach to human life under difficult conditions. We all hope that, together with the removal of the threat of terrorism against Galilee, we will come to such arrangements as to permit the rapid return of our soldiers from Lebanon to their homes, safe and sound. The blessing of the entire nation is sent to the soldiers wherever they are — in gun positions, in trenches, in camp, or on the roads.

Ladies and gentlemen, the past year has also been full of painful internal arguments. The difference within us is not new, nor should it disturb us per se. The ancients had a saying: He who sees the people of Israel says blessed be the Lord that their views are not similar to each other's and that their faces do not resemble each other's. The question is, do we have the ability to tolerate different views just as we are capable of tolerating different faces. What an illusion to assume that a day will come when we all hold the same political view for the sake of unity, as it were. The question is not whether there will be arguments among us, but how to conduct them. That question has become a central factor in our lives, in our ability to maintain democracy and live with each other. It is as simple as that. I believe that most of the public feels the essentialness of the issue and wants more tolerance and mutual ways to live together. This is also possible if every side in the argument restrains itself and does not allow feelings of hostility and expressions of violence that are sometimes inside to come out.

In another field, it appears to me that the time has come for religious and secular people to sit down seriously to discuss the relations between them and the future of the coexistence between them. The situation is becoming more serious and it must not be permitted to deteriorate without our intervening in them and trying to direct them toward the desirable path.

From the kindergartens and the schools, the separation between

the two camps begins — sometimes unnecessarily. For example, there is no reason for different subjects not to be taught together. After all, mathematics is not religious or secular, or geography, or English. That is only an example. I have seen in several places successful studies together and this should be done throughout Israel. If the people of goodwill from both camps do not lend a hand to dialogue, to my regret, I foresee increasingly serious developments.

In contrast to this, it seems to me that the interfactional tensions that have been very much exaggerated for political needs will gradually disappear. I believe these tensions will almost completely disappear within 30 or 40 years, for mixed marriages are increasing, from 11 percent 10 years ago to 23 percent this year; and among the middle class there is an even greater percentage. The gap in grade school education between the oriental and ashkenazi communities has been eliminated. It does not exist. In high school education there is still a gap, but it is gradually being closed. To this we must add the process of the closing of the economic gap between the different sects, apart from the two low tenths, including those from the large families. All these welcome trends will lead us to the creation of one nation, without factions and without tensions of a factional nature.

But objective processes are not enough. We must take the initiative into our own hands, first of all by changing our behavior and manner of speaking on this issue; by condemning anyone who incites and makes the contrasts worse for personal or party objectives. The public's healthy instinct tells it that this danger must be removed; we will not fall into its trap. Everywhere where there is a mixed population living, with different sects, with its children going together to kindergarten, to school, and parents go to the market and all these things are common to them, there are almost no problems. You see with your own eyes, tangibly, how sects and tribes are turning into one, united community and this bears with it a message for the future.

Dear citizens, we are far better than we appear. There is much that is positive and much light in our lives and we do not always recognize this. Hundreds of thousands of citizens devote their time and energy to various volunteer activities. There is much being done. There is something vital being created. We must not blur painful problems, nor must we cover up the achievements being made. This is required both for the sake of truth and for the sake of the public's spiritual health. What the nation in Israel has wanted and done for the 35 years of its independence is incomparable, in any nation or language, at any time or place. And when we hesitate over the problems facing us and ask ourselves if we can face up to them, we must occasionally look back to see all the great positive things and draw strength and inspiration for the future from them. The key question to everything is: Will we establish a society built on values, morality, and ideals, or on contempt for human beings and pursuance of material assets? It is in our hands to tilt the scales one way or another. This is not just a matter of fate. If the nation places in front of its eyes the many sacrifices it has made for its existence and independence, I have no doubt what it will choose in the end. Good evening and happy Independence Day.

Eytan Interviewed on Lebanon, Other Issues

TA172025 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan by military correspondent Dan Scemama in Eytan's office, 17 April]

[Excerpts][Question]Gen Eytan: This evening we are celebrating Israel's 35th Independence Day. We are now in a situation in which the historic struggle between us and the Arabs is at its peak. Do you see a solution to this conflict in the foreseeable future or will we live by the sword forever?

[Answer] First of all, we must define what a struggle at its peak is. We are now living through a struggle with the Arabs over Eretz Yisra'el which is harder and more critical than it was 2 years ago, and more than it was in 1967 or in 1948. The phrase at its peak [interrupted]

[Question] No, I did not say at its peak, the struggle is continuing.

[Answer] The struggle is continuing, yes, but today that struggle is no different from the other struggles over Eretz Yisra'el, or in fact the struggle over Eretz Yisra'el, even before the establishment of the state.

[Question] And how do you see the foreseeable future?

[Answer] On this matter, I do not know whether the future can be seen, but if you are asking what I hope it is, what every one of us should hope. We should believe that the day will come when the Arabs will accept our existence. I think that decreasing the chance of the Arab countries together beating us will eventually lead us to the idea and to the decision that this approach must be abandoned. We exist. That is a fact. We cannot be erased. We cannot be moved. We will live with them in peace.

[Question] And until then?

[Answer] You ask, until then; that means that maybe you think I have an alternative. I do not see any alternative other than being strong here, in Eretz Yisra'el, as a state, as a nation, so that the Arab's hopes of defeating us cannot come true.

[Question] General Eytan, over the past year the most outstanding thing from the security viewpoint, perhaps, was the war in Lebanon. And in that war we were, perhaps, witnesses to the fact that for the first time there was no national consensus over the war's objectives, especially when the objective was beyond the 45 km mark. Did this phenomenon concern you during the war, or after it?

[Answer] I have taken part in all the wars in Eretz Yisra'el. I also took part in actions — not wars, but battles — before the establishment of the state. Since then and to this day, there have been differences of opinion. The war in Lebanon, I think, has not been different in this respect, except that the activity has been much more widespread, encompassing the media both in Israel and abroad far more, as far as I remember, than in previous wars. Did we have to fight that war or not? Would that war affect in

the very long run our lives here, in Eretz Yisra'el? Would the war have an influence on the establishment of a Palestinian state in Eretz Yisra'el or not? That is something we will see. We cannot know today. In my opinion, the war drove the chance of that happening further away.

[Question] Today it seems that we are on the eve of an agreement with Lebanon, and it seems that the cards are still in the hands of the Syrians and the PLO, without whose agreement in fact there will neither be an agreement with Lebanon nor in Lebanon. Was it not possible to have foreseen such a situation at the beginning of the war and would it not have been possible perhaps to have done more to prevent it?

[Answer] Prevent what?

[Question] A situation in which the Syrians and the PLO can veto, if they want, an agreement we sign with Lebanon, because of their presence in Lebanon.

[Answer] And do more for who?

[Question] I do not know. I am asking you, the chief of staff. Or to have done things differently, if nothing more?

[Answer] I would be able to answer you very easily if I had had prior reports that we would reach this point and that there would be negotiations and that that would be the situation in the negotiations. However, such things cannot be foreseen. It is a fact that today negotiations are being conducted among three elements, Lebanon, Israel, and the Americans, through the Americans, with the mediation of the Americans, with their supervision or control, or with their help. And the Syrians and the PLO are off to the side. I think that the Syrians will be able to accept those agreements if they are not incited and if they do not get support for not joining the negotiations. The terrorists will do whatever the Syrians do, so they say. Patience.

[Question] Following the war we have been witness to growing Soviet involvement in Syria — missiles, advisers, various types of weapons, modern weapons, and a direct Soviet threat to Israel.

[Answer] Over-involvement, or involvement that did not exist before, is connected with the operation of the SAM-5'S. This also has positive aspects, not just negative ones. Because Russia, as a great power, as I see it, does not rejoice at using such a weapon against us, as the Syrians would if the matter was in their hands. The opposite might also be true. But one must remember that a great power like Russia, when close to the U.S. Army, and at such a distance from home, may also weigh other considerations.

[Questions] But if such a weapon, such a missile, is used, it would also be difficult for us to react because Soviet soldiers in fact are operating it.

[Answer] It will be difficult to respond politically, not militarily. The considerations will be more political — and in my view, the Russians are also mindful of those considerations.

[Question] Do you expect a war with Syria, or a Syrian attempt to begin a war of attrition or some kind of operation against Israel?

[Answer] I cannot prophesy and say what the Syrians will do. I do not know whether they themselves know what they will do. It depends very much on their correct assessment of what we will do if they make some initiative. And they are liable to err.

[Question] Meaning?

[Answer] They are liable to think that they can set rules, rules of action, something that was true in the previous wars. But that has not been the case in this war. Therefore, there is no attrition such as there was in the past because we did not accept their rules and we acted accordingly to our own rules. Moreover, such a thing is liable to happen to them if they think that there are rules and they try to do something.

[Question] Mr Chief of Staff, let us discuss Judaea and Samaria. We are witnessing an increase in agitation in the territories. Do you think that the establishment of 10 new settlements in Judaea and Samaria for every stone throw will calm the inhabitants?

[Answer] That has been the answer of the Jewish people in Eretz Yisra'el to the repeated attempts to block the Jewish people's returning here since the beginning of Zionist settlement. And I think that if the Arabs want to keep us out of Eretz Yisra'el by means of stones, then we will be in Eretz Yisra'el despite the stones. And if there are more settlements, there will be more security, and there will be fewer stones.

[Question] Do you think that if the government were to decide today, for example, that Judaea and Samaria should be annexed that such a decision would change the security situation in Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] I do not want to answer that question.

[Question] Security elements tell us that one of the radical solutions for solving the problems in Judaea and Samaria is to reimplement the policy of expelling the agitators and rioters from Judaea and Samaria. What do you think?

[Answer] We often restrain ourselves so as not to have to use certain measures. A stick is better than a gun. And I have received many proposals to return to the days of the Palmach: Use sticks, teach the soldiers hand-to-hand combat, such as was once practised; then we would see who is stronger.

[Question] General Eytan, this week you were severely criticized — even President Navon criticized you — for your remarks about the Arabs, whom you compared to doped cockroaches. Do you retract some of your remarks?

[Answer] I did not compare the Arabs to cockroaches. But because of what was done to my remarks, they came out that way. I do not retract a single word of what I actually said.

[Question] Mr Chief of Staff, in the public or the press you are considered the most political chief of staff Israel has ever had. At Cabinet sessions, you censured ministers for not having policies; you called a Knesset member a liar; you pardoned

soldiers who had been sentenced for murder — is that the way a chief of staff should act?

[Answer] You establish facts, and I have to answer you as in court. What does the lightening of a sentence have to do with politics? What is the connection? It was raised as a moral issue, and I showed them that I am in command of an army that is more moral in terms of its behavior than in any other period.

[Question] If I am not mistaken, it was raised in the Knesset also as a political issue.

[Answer] If I were to say that it would be possible to defend Eretz Yisra'el inside the 1967 borders, without Judaea and Samaria, then those who are today shouting one way, would shoult differently. And others would shout still differently. So that is a political chief of staff. I can point to all the statements of my predecessors on the security problems of settlement in Judaea and Samaria. Were they descended upon with the same talk? And I repeat: Eretz Yisra'el cannot be defended without Judaea and Samaria. Judaea and Samaria cannot be held without settlement. Settlement is the basis of the Jewish people in Eretz Yisra'el. Zionism was founded on this.

[Question] You surely know that a controversy surrounds that question.

[Answer] What controversy? Who settled in Gush 'Ezyon in 1943? Why was there no controversy then?

[Question] Today the matter is the subject of a parliamentary debate, at least in Israel today.

[Answer] Why today no and then yes? Those who cry no today settled in Gush 'Ezyon in 1943, and they had intended to settle more, but the Independence War broke out, and that area was conquered from us. And if Gush 'Ezyon had not been conquered from us, today there would be many settlements there of all types and political stripes. I repeat: Whoever is totally honest, must not settle, according to his personal morality, beyond the partition borders. Because that is not Israel, that is not recognized anywhere in the world, and the Galilee is not within Israel, nor is Yafo, nor Nahariyya, nor Migdal Ha'emeq. And in the world's eyes we took territory from others and have settled on it. What is the difference morally speaking? Whoever recognizes the partition borders, believes in them, and is true to his conscience should split Jerusalem now and hand it over to international authority, as Israel had agreed at the time.

[Question] You know certainly that that conception is opposed to the Alignment's. Would it be possible to carry it out if the Alignment, and not the Likud, was in power?

[Answer] I do not make such calculations. Go ask Shim'on Peres.

[Question] With your conception, it seems a bit difficult for you?

[Answer] First of all, I would not change my conception. Had I not been chosen chief of staff, then I would not be the chief of staff. When the Alignment was in power, they set up many settlements in Judaea and Samaria. When was Qiryat Araba' set up? Elon More was planned to be established in May 1973. Did I invent Elon More? I had been asked for a security declaration and I read it from the plan for settlement in Judaea and Samaria that was prepared in May 1973. So I am told that I am political, that I am for Elon More. And then I was asked for a security appraisal about a place that did not seem necessary I did not say it was needed for security, and pressures were tried, but I did not give it because it did not have any security value in my view. A place — it does not matter where. But Elon More — Elon More had been planned even before May 1973, under a different name, but at the same spot. It is convenient to say: political chief of staff. But I said nothing that any of the chiefs of staffs before me did not say.

Begin Said to Want Eytan for Successor

TA170716 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Apr 83 p 1

[Report by Yehoshu'a Tadmor]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin is thinking of making "Raful" [nickname for outgoing Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan] run as his number two man in the next government if he finally decides to head the Likud list in the next elections. In any case, in closed talks in Jerusalem, Begin recently stated that he would like to see "Raful" as the prime minister succeeding him.

It has transpired that the prime minister fears that first- and second-line Herut leaders will not be enough in the future,and by introducing "Raful" ahead of time he is seeking to strengthen the Likud's leadership and assure its continued rule.

ALGERIA

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Algiers 16 April

LD162051 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and Secretary General of the FLN party, this afternoon at the presidential headquarters received PLO Executive Committee Yasir Chairman Mr Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and number of minister of foreign affairs.

Mr 'Arafat arrived in Algiers this evening. At Houari Boumediene International Airport Mr 'Arafat was welcomed by Central Committee members Brother Sulayman Hofman, the chairman of the party foreign relations committee, and Brother Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, the adviser to the presidency, and Brother As-Sadiq Zuwaytin, the official in charge ofhe liberation movements section of the party.

At the airport's VIP lounge Mr 'Arafat made the following statement:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] I visited Sweden several days ago at the invitation of (?Prime Minister Olof Palme). I attended an expanded meeting which included the leaders of the socialist parties in the Scandinavian countries as well as meetings with (Prime Minister Olof Palme). The visit, which was my first to those Scandinavian areas, is seen as a successful visit in every respect. A number of issues concerning the Palestinian question and the situation in the Middle East and a number of international issues (?of mutual concern) were discussed. During this visit I found (?a response) and a principled stand committed to the just cause of our Palestinian people and a desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We agreed to continue the contacts in (?the future).

Afterwards I paid a visit to Bulgaria where I met with my brother, Comrade Chairman Zhivkov, and a number of Bulgarian officials. I also found in this visit and the talks I had with Chairman Zhivkov every support and backing for the struggle of the Palestinian people and their just cause. My discussions with Chairman Zhivkov were important and positive and effective and they embraced all common issues. Chairman Zhivkov stressed Bulgaria's stand which is committed to support the cause and just struggle of the Palestinian people. These two visits will be followed by others in the near future, God willing.

[Question] What is your evaluation of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks on the confederation?

[Answer] On the confederation? As I said previously, there were two viewpoints during the talks which took place between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. With due respect to the Jordanian viewpoint, however, we have announced our viewpoint which is committed to the resolutions of the PNC and the Arab summit in Fes. As I said before, this does not mean the talks have stopped. The two sides must try to find the best and most useful means to continue this constructive dialogue in order to reach a mutual agreement. [end recording]

Bendjedid Receives Mauritanian, Gabonese Envoys

LD172125 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Envoys of the Mauritanian and Gabonese presidents have been received by President Bendjedid. Mr Ould Ahmed Deya delivered a message from Mauritanian President Haydala to the head of state. A message from Gabonese President Omar Bongo was also delivered by Gabonese deputy prime minister and minister of tourism Georges Rawiri.

LIBYA

Green Book Conference Final Statement Issued

LD132250 Tripoli JANA in English 2045 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Al-Bayan Al-Awwal, April 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Dr Ahmad Salman Ahmad, member of preparatory committee, delivered the final communique of the first international conference on the ideology of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi,the Green Book. The text follows of the "Final Communique of the First International Conference on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's Ideology -- the Green Book":

The world is dominated by political and economic oppression. It is witnessing acute social ruptures. Man and people are being subjected to the most savage forms of domination, subjugation, terrorism and exploitation. These dangers are being posed to peace and security by imperialism, Zionism, racism reaction and fascism, which are running amock in the international arena, threatening humanity with extinction.

The world is passing through a stifling crisis, and a deterioration at the political, economic, and social levels. It is characterised by ideological bankruptcy and failure of all prevalent theories and regimes in finding solutions to man's problems so as to realise his freedom and sovereignty.

For all these prevailing reasons above, the first international Green Book conference on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's ideology in theory and practice was held at Qar Yunis University in Al-Bayan Al-Awwal city from 7-13 April. The conference was the crowning point of all the seminars and hearings held at local and international levels on the Green Book. The conference was held under the auspices of the Interntional Green Book Research Centre and was attended by more than 1,000 lecturers, writers, journalists and a number of revolutionary and political leaders together with freedom fighters from all corners of the world. They came to study the radical solutions propounded by the Green Book to various political, economic and social problems which the prevailing regimes and theories have failed to resolve.

The participants at the conference hail the thinker and teacher Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and express appreciation for his active involvement in the conference's proceedings, his patronage and his elucidations and interpretations of the Green Book's dicta

which have enlightened humanity's path towards freedom and emancipation from all the chains of oppression, injustice and exploitation. The participants further acclaim him as the leading ideologue of jamahiri (mass) thought.

The participants studied a number of research papers dealing with humanity's ideological problems as heralded in the Green Book. They were democratically, seriously and objectively discussed. The participants affirm the following:

1. The Green Book represents a new revolutionary civilizational and humanitarian orientation capable of resolving humanity's problems and their devastating effect.

2. The Green Book's dicta are the product of humanity's thought and the people's struggle throughout history. They have comprehensive orientiation and are not an ideological product of an individual or localised or nationalist character.

3. The solutions contained in the Green Book are radical, practical and capable of application regardless of the geographic, democratic, cultural, national and religious characteristics.

4. Examining and explaining this ideology together with studying and heralding it represent a humanitarian task to be shouldered by all peoples struggling for freedom and happiness.

5. The attempts to suppress the Green Book's ideology by the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary-racist-fascist forces requires the waging of an international cultural revolution launched by the believeres in the masses and the inevitability of victory over all the foundations of injustice and exploitation.

6. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah represents a revolutionary citadel and an international platform for combating imperialism, Zionism, racism, reaction and fascism. Freedom seekers and peace loving forces should support her legitimate struggle against the imperialist threats and provocations.

7. It has become necessary to form an international committee composed of lecturers and writers to set up a programme to assist the International Green Book Research Centre in implementing this conference's recommendations and in preparing for the conference on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's ideology (the Green Book). The programme should include the following:

A) The endeavour to launch an international cultural revolution creating a new mentality to contribute to setting civilisation on the right path.

B) The endeavour to create forms of cooperation between scientific institutions in the Jamahiriyah and their counterparts in other countries with the aim of acquiring a deeper understanding of jamahiri ideology as set in the Green Book and of enriching it with studies and elaborations.

C) Work to form joint research teams for the same purpose as above.

D) Endeavour to introduce the Green Book's ideology to the curricula of all universities and to establish study circles and deliver lectures, on making available a programme for exchanging visiting lecturers and students between universities for the above purpose.

E) Encourage postgraduate students to select ideological and humanitarian questions derived from the Green Book's dicta for their university theses.

F) Urge writers and intellectuals to participate with their research and intellectual activity in the International Green Book Research Center. This, whether in "AL FIKR AL JAMAHIRI" magazine or in any other form of its activities.

G) Work to consolidate relations between this conference's participants and others so as to coordinate among themselves in ways that would serve the new ideology's movement aimed at realising freedom and happiness for the masses and facilitating the application of the Green Book's dicta.

H) Continue work in holding local, regional and international seminars on the Green Book's ideology.

I) Work to break through the media siege imposed on the third universal theory by establishing intimate links with media and cultural establishments throughout the world.

J) Publication of specialised scientific and information magazines and periodicals and to participate in editing newspapers, magazines and periodicals of specialised and generalised nature throughout the world so as to spread the third universal theory and deepen the dialogue surrounding it.

K) Work to establish branches of the International Green Book Research Centre in other parts of the world.

L) Confront all imperialist, Zionist, reactionary, racist and fascist attempts to undermine the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and which are also aimed at preventing the spread of the third universal theory and entrenching the bases of oppression, exploitation and injustice at an international level and within various societies and to take all necessary measures to move from a mere position of negative defence to that of positive influence.

M) Continue the work on translating the Green Book to all languages.

N) Endeavour to hold seminars and symposia for youth and students at an international level on Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's ideology.

O) Formulate, translate, publish and distribute the proceedings of this conference. [no closing quotation marks received]

Al-Qadhdhafi 'Has Had Contacts' With Al-Asad

LD151758 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Apr (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution has had contacts with President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and the members of front of steadfastness and confrontation. These contacts came in the wake of the increased military preparations by the Zionist enemy and its preparation for launching a fresh attack against Syria.

FRG State Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD171950 Tripoli JANA in English 0827 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rajab 5, April 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The minister of state for foreign affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany arrived in Tripoli yesterday afternoon.

The minister, on his arrival at the airport, told JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY that his and the accompanying delegation's visit was in the framework of increasing the existing cooperation between the two countries.

Received by Jallud

LD171954 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud received this morning Mr Juergen Moellemann, the minister of state in the FRG Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the members of the accompanying delegation.

Visits Ends 17 April

LD172000 Tripoli JANA in English 1803 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rajab 5, April 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Western German minister of state for foreign affairs this evening left Tripoli after ending a short visit to the Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

'Arafat Arrives in Fes After Visit to Algiers

LD170025 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Fes this evening from Algiers. He was accompanied by Mr Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Mr Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], members of the Fatah Central Committee. At the VIP lounge of the Fes airport, Mr Yasir 'Arafat spoke to us about his visit, saying:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] This is a working visit taking place in grave and fateful circumstances for the Arab nation in general and the Palestinians in particular. It is natural that we should come for discussions with his majesty the king, not only in his capacity as king of the Moroccan Kingdom, but also in his capacity as chairman of the Arab summit conference and of the Jerusalem committee.

As is known, there have been major developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. We come to discuss with his majesty the king all these subjects, whether they concern the Palestinian scene, the Arab scene, or the international scene. [end recording]

In answer to a question concerning his talks with Algeria's President Chadli Bendjedid, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] Together with my brothers Abu Iyad and Abu Mazin, I stopped over in Algiers where we met with the brother president and brother Algerian officials. There were important talks between us concerning the Arab situation and the Palestinian situation in the light of the developments and changes occuring on the Arab and Palestinian scenes. We have reached some important points with the brother president; as you know, the brother president is eager about the Palestinian position and the safety of the Palestinian issue in all its aspects, especially in these difficult circumstances. He has entrusted me with his personal greetings to his brother King Hassan II [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Hassan Receives 'Arafat

LD172316 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] At the royal palace in Fes this evening, His Majesty King Hassan II received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who was accompanied by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], and Khalid al-Hasan, members of the Fatah Central Committee, and Abu Marwan [Yasin Fawwaz], PLO representative in Rabat. On the Moroccan side, the meeting was attended by Minister of State in charge of Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta, and his majesty's advisers Ahmad Rida Ghdira and Ahmad Bensouda.

SUDAN

Numayri Receives Message From Weinberger

JN161826 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1752 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Apr (SUNA) — Lieutenant General Fathi 'Umar Abu al-Hasan, minister of state at the Defense Ministry, has received a written message from U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger for Field Marshal Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, minister of defense and commander of the People's Armed Forces. This took place this morning during Abu al-Hasan's meeting with Mr David, the military attache at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum.

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed the course of military relations and close cooperation between them in training, maintenance, and equipment under the annual U.S. aid program for Sudan. They also discussed means to expand cooperation and future program in these fields between the two countries.

Executions of Libyan Professors, Students Cited

JN161504 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Rome, 16 Apr (SUNA) — Returnees from Libya have told the SUNA Rome correspondent that Al-Qadhdhafi executed a number of Al-Fatih University professors and students as well as 30 Palestinians. The execution was carried out at the university at 1030 on 7 April.

SUNA has learned that some Libyans in (Ad-Dayibah), including several members of the Islamic Liberation Party [Hizb at-Tahrir al-Islami], who have been held in Libyan concentration camps since 1973, have also been executed.

TUNISIA

President Bourguiba Receives PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

LD161734 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] This morning, President Habib Bourguiba and his wife received at the White Hall in the Republican Palace in Qartajannah Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee,who was accompanied by the strugglers Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali; Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi; Interior Minister Driss Guiga; Chedli Klibi, general secretary of the Arab League; and (Hasan Bil'awi), the PLO representative in Tunis. Following the meeting, the great combatant and hiswife invited [words indistinct] to lunch.

Before leaving the Republican Palace in Qartajannah, Yasir 'Arafat made a statement. He mentioned that the talks with his excellency the president dealt with a number of important subjects connected with current issues and events in the Palestinian or Arab arena. He added that he informed the president on the conditions through which the Palestinian issue is going, including the situation in the occupied land and the political and military and [word indistinct]. He then said: His excellency the president expressed his principled stand toward our Palestinian people and their just cause. He again stressed the firm stand of sister Tunisia and its people by the side of the Palestinian people [words indistinct].

Yasir 'Arafat concluded his statement by expressing his gratitude to his excellency the president in the name of the Palestinian peoples and the Palestinian revolutionaries.

ETHIOPIA

Baghdad: EPLF Kill 1,500 Ethiopian Soldiers

JN151555 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Addis Ababa — The Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] has announced that its armed forces repulsed Ethiopian Army attempts to penetrate the Hal-Hal front in northern Eritrea 130 km northwest of Asmara and killed 1,500 Ethiopian soldiers and wounded another 500.

An EPLF military communique issued in Mogadishu last night added that on Sunday and Monday the Ethiopian forces launched several attacks on the Hal-Hal front, supported by fighter planes and helicopters. The communique further said that the EPLF fighters crushed the enemy's attempts.

The communique added that the EPLF and the Tigre People's Liberation Front last Tuesday jointly attacked the Ethiopian forces in the Agaro area near the city of Cobbo about 300 km north of Addis Ababa and destroyed military equipment.

KUNA Reports on Eritrean-Ethiopian Peace Talks

LD151808 Kuwait KUNA in English 1705 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Spelling of names as received]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 15 (KUNA) — An Etitrean leader disclosed here Friday that a delegation of the Eritrean Popular Liberation Front led by Isayas Aswarke was currently negotiating with an Ethiopian Government delegation led by intelligence chief Colonel Wuld Tessai on a peaceful settlement of the Eritrean question. Head of the Central Council of the People's Liberation Forces of the Eritrean Liberation Front (PLF-ELF) Osman Saleh Sabbe charged that the move, sponsored and mediated by Italy, aims at dividing the Eritrean people on sectarian basis and sounded an outright rejection of such unilateral step and non-commitment to any eventual agreement reached.

[Words indistinct] currently visiting the UAE, added that the negotiations were held in Rome since last February and that, according to firsthand information, the two parties had reached a tentative agreement on re-establishing a confederation between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

In 1952 the United Nations endorsed Eritrea to become a confederate part of Ethiopia but in 1962 the then government of the late emperor unilaterally annulled the decision and officially annexed the territory. The move led to the outbreak of the war which is raging until today.

The Eritrean leader stated that he has cabled Italian Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani and Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo demanding an abrupt end of this mediation effort and warning against its serious results. Sabbe also warned the Italian Government against dealing unilaterally with one Eritrean commando movement and called on this respect for a unified Eritrean delegation to negotiate with Ethiopia in order to safeguard the people's higher interests as well as Ethiopia's vital interest in securing an outlet to the Red Sea.

Upholding the principle of negotiating with the Ethiopian Government for a just political settlement realizing the Eritrean people's legitimate aspirations in freedom and independence, Sebbi noted that Ethiopia's willingness to discuss settlement of the 22 year-old dispute came after failure to score an ultimate military victory. "The Eritrean rural areas," he explained, "remain to be the revolution's stronghold," and indicated that by accepting negotiations, Ethiopia was trying to better its image before the West European countries.

In this respect he pointed that the EEC resolved last November and January to withhold humanitarian aid given to Ethiopia and decided to channel it instead to the Eritrean people.

He concluded that Eritrean delegations were currently touring a number of European countries to explain the present situation in Eritrea and to muster (?support) for the cause.

KENYA

Antismuggling Policy with Uganda, Tanzania

EA162307 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today announced that the Kenya Government had agreed with the Tanzanian and Ugandan Governments to cooperate in tracking down smugglers and other criminals, and he cautioned those involved in antisocial activities that they will not get any mercy anywhere in the three east African countries.

He warned that anyone breaking the established laws of the three countries with the hope of fleeing to one of them would be prosecuted accordingly. President Moi was addressing the south Nyanza Kanu women's youth group that called on him at his Kabarak this afternoon. The President appealed to wananchi, particularly those living along the country's borders, to be vigilant and report to the authorities anyone suspected to be involved in unlawful activities.

CHAD

Counterproposals to Libyan Offer Prepared

AB181037 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 18 Apr 83

[By Bernard Degioanni]

[Text] Ndjamena, April 18 (AFP) — Contacts between Libya and Chad with a view to settling their border differences have not been broken, but are simply suspended, Chadian Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine has said. Mr. Miskine told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Chad was now preparing counter-proposals to the Libyan terms for a treaty between the two neighbours, rejected by Chad last month.

The Libyans proposed as the price of their recognition of the regime of Hissein Habre which took power in Ndjamena last June that a treaty should be signed proclaiming Chad's "Arabness," a "strategic alliance" between the two countries and recognition of their "historic border." The border dispute centres on Libya's occupation of the Aouzou Strip in northern Chad, which is believed to be rich in minerals. Earlier this month the United Nations Security Council refused to take sides, and said the matter should be settled amicably.

Mr. Miskine said that Chad was a secular state, and it was not up to Libya to speak of a treaty proclaiming it an Arab country. He noted that Chad was a founder member of the Islamic Conference Organisation and had chosen Arabic as its second language.

Mr. Miskine called the Security Council decision a triple diplomatic victory for Chad. The first was the recognition that Chad's complaint was well-founded, the second that the council met to examine it, and the third that the council's recommendation was unanimous. Libya had implicitly recognised that it was occupying part of Chadian territory, he added. However Mr. Miskine refused to fix a deadline for the departure of Libyan troops from the 150,000 square kilometre (60,000 square mile) Aouzou Strip. "We have already given (?proof) of our good will and our readiness to settle this matter peacefully. The ball is now in Libya's court," he said.

Mr. Miskine said his government's determination to defend national and territorial unity was the top priority, and he stressed that the United Nations had recommended recourse to the Organisation of African Unity, the International Court of Justice, or other states. Without spelling it out, Mr. Miskine hinted that Chad would accept mediation by a third state or eminent person.

The foreign minister said that the situation was "completely calm" in northern Chad, where a Libyan-backed government headed by Goukouni Oueddei, Mr. Habre's predecessor, controls five towns. Mr. Miskine said that the Chadian Army had recently evacuated the town of Ounianga Kebir "for strategic reasons". The enemy had placed mines round the town, but it was free of military occupation, he added.

Penne Leaves; Miskine Notes French Aid

AB141607 Paris AFP in French 1332 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 14 Apr (AFP) — Guy Penne, special adviser to President Francois Mitterand on African and Malagasy affairs, and his assistant, Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, left Ndjamena on Thursday after a 1-day visit to Chad.

At the end of a meeting on Wednesday with Chadian head of state Hissein Habre which was also attended by Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, Mr Penne told the press that "French-Chadian cooperation was sound" and that France will help Chad in its national reconstruction. On French economic aid to Chad since Hissein Habre came to power, Guy Penne said that the aid is not as low as reported by the CHADIAN NEWS AGENCY which recently criticized the insufficient aid given by Paris for the country's reconstruction. According to figures given by Mr Penne, for 1983 total French economic aid is slightly over 2 billion CFA francs.

Mr Penne, who confirmed the upcoming visit to Ndjamena by Christian Nucci, French minister delegate for cooperation and development, said, however, that French overall financial aid and its appropriation will be decided in upcoming meetings in Paris.

Regarding military cooperation between Chad and France, President Mitterrand's special adviser for African and Malagasy affairs confirmed that this would be discussed by Christian Nucci during his upcoming visit to Chad. Guy Penne recalled the French pledge to support Chad in the defense of its independence and sovereignty. During a reception in honor of the French delegation, the Chadian foreign affairs minister stressed in his toast France's readiness to help Chad. "Chad can count France among its friends," said Idriss Miskine. Among concrete French contributions to the Chadian Government, the Chadian minister recalled the French Government's decision to cancel a 4 billion franc debt. Additionally, Idriss Miskine stressed that France supported the Chadian cause during the recent United Nations Security Council debate on Chad's accusations against Libya.

Bardai Notes Strengthening Franco-Chadian Ties

AB142122 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1800 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] The socialist government of Francois Mitterrand is strengthening its ties with the Ndjamena reactionary and puppet group through the assassin of Major (Dalopeche). In fact, Guy Penne, special adviser to the French head of state for African affairs, accompanied by Mitterrand's son, has arrived in Ndjamena. [Words indistinct] to the jailer of Francoise Claustre and in connection with the urgent steps being taken by Hissein Habre to pay a visit to France. It will be recalled that a delegation of the national annihilation forces [Habre's forces] recently paid a visit to France to request the delivery of a powerful radio transmitter and logistics.

Will this visit by Guy Penne enable France to go further in its efforts to support the fascist forces of Habre against the struggling Chadian people? We know, however, that the French

colonial troops based in (Boueyan) in the CAR are operating tactically in the south of Chad against the resistance of the civilian population.

Goukouni Oueddei Addresses Chadian People

AB152235 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1800 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] President Goukouni Oueddei's address to the Chadian people on 15 April 1983 — live or recorded]

[Summary] "Throughout the national territory, murders and all sorts of extorsions have been made into a form of administration." But the reactionary practice will be terminated. "Confident in its final victory and in the imminent (?liberation) of the Chadian people, but being incapable of giving them any material assistance, the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] through my voice extends to them its moral support and calls on them to redouble courage and patience. We take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to the Niger Government for the particularly African hospitality it has reserved for our refugees on its territory.

Martyred people of Chad, at the very moment I am addressing you, the Zionist entity is making preparations to establish a base in our country. At this very moment the Israelis, the Americans, and their allies are (?assisting) the dictator in Ndjamena. We think that the mission assigned to the leaders of the group of (?traitors) and bloodthirsty men is to hand over Chad to the (?enemies of the nation) so that they can establish a base for their acts of aggression against the progressive states of the African Continent. This sufficiently accounts for the hysterical agitation of the executioners in Washington in complicity with Paris and their lackeys aimed at confirming the fait accompli and securing international recognition for their (?puppet) in Ndjamena. In flirting with the national annihilation forces [Hissein Habre's forces], the United States wants to find an excuse and an alibi to get involved more overtly in the Chadian crisis and use it to destabilize a neighboring, brotherly country, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah because of its (?vanguard position) in the anti-imperialist struggle in Africa. "[Passage indistinct] In view of the threats looming over the Chadian people, and through them the African people, we have to assume our responsibility." The GUNT will strengthen the political structure of the National liberation army and make it possible for the masses of our people to attain their destiny.

So far within the GUNT, only the Revolutionary Democratic Council has had an ideological and political structure. But this has not led to the democratic change in the old structure of the government. In view of this our people have become impatient and excited. Conscious of the situation, the members of the government have unanimously decided to introduce socialism in Chad: "We have unanimously decided to engage Chad on the path of socialist development." A commission has been set up forthis purpose and its "findings will be submitted to a peoples council for approval."

"The GUNT, which is faithful to its new political option, that is socialism and the anti-imperialist struggle, will carry out a two-pronged policy — internal and external. On the home front, neocolonialist (?oppression); to restore a people's democratic, socialist and progressive power; to guarantee the fundamental rights of the citizens; to use all means to fight regionalism, tribalism, regionalism nepotism," and other social ills. "The GUNT also pledges to defend Chad's sovereignty and territorial integrity and to reorganize the country's administration on the basis of a progressive and efficient decentralization.

"On the international front it has to fight against colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, racism, Zionism, and apartheid; to promote a policy of goodneighborliness, friendship, and cooperation with all countries without exception on the basis of mututal respect for states' sovereignty and territorial integrity; to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation with all progressive countries with the goal of achieving common objectives and consolidating brotherhood among our respective peoples." In view of these objectives, our army has an important role, "the national liberation army is a people's army, a disciplined revolutionary army free from tribalism and regionalism and serves to radically change the neocolonial and reactionary system that our country inherited from colonialism." It must make every sacrifice to fully free our country. Our armed forces have already proven their total determination to free our country from the antinational forces in Ndjamena. We are proud and grateful to them for their action in the past few days. We hereby tell them that "victory is within their reach." In the face of the clique of traitors in the pay of French and American imperialism, the national liberation army is formed only of nationals who are determined to free their people from the grip of imperialism. There is no Islamic Legion member anywhere; not even his shadow. "The Islamic Legion referred to by the enemies is a mere diversionary move. We gladly reiterate our invitation made earlier to the representatives of the international press, to any observer or group of observers interested to come to seek on-the-spot information on the real situation."

Heroic people of Chad, the time has come for us to display greater determination and to launch an offensive to free our country from terror and dictatorship in Ndjamena, and to restore national unity with the view to promoting a progressive national development. In its struggle against imperialism, the GUNT wants to cooperate with all progressive states in Africa and elsewhere, with its neighbors on the basis of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and noninterference in other states' internal affairs. "The GUNT reaffirms its commitment to the OAU Charter." It wants the organization to be free from imperialist manipulation and its resolutions to be complied with. Chadian people, we must count on ourselves. But "we do count on the solidarity of the socialist, progressive countries of Africa and elsewhere in the world. I hereby express our thanks and our gratitude in anticipation. To the Socialist People's Arab Libyan Jamahiriya and to the People's Republic of Benin, we extend our revolutionary greetings and our thanks for all the assistance they have granted us. The Chadian people will be grateful to them forever." Chadian revolutionary people, you must serve our democratic, socialist, and progressive goal.

GHANA

ECHO Reminds U.S. of Its 'Responsibility'

AB171157 Accra Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Press Review]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Under the heading "Libya and Democracy," the ECHO says Libya is opposed to Zionism, fascism, and all forms of inequity likely to let the world rush headlong or even slide into chaos. Without any doubt, the United States now poses the greatest threat to Libya because of its opposition to international imperialism spearheaded by the United States. Libya's contention is that the American unqualified support for Israel and South Africa is directed against equality and freedom and frightens all nonaligned countries. The ECHO reminds the United States that as one of the superpowers, it ought to be aware of its responsibility not only to its own country, but the world at large.

PNDC Appoints Central Region Secretary

AB152026 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Ato Dadzie has been appointed Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] regional secretary for the Central Region. A statement from the office of the PNDC says the appointment takes immediate effect.

GUINEA

Diplomatic Relations Established With Thailand

AB152239 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Eager to strengthen and to revitalize the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the two peoples, the Governments of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea and the Kingdom of Thailand have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level in conformity with the UN Charter and in respect to the territorial integrity of and noninterference in the domestic affairs of states.

LIBERIA

Minister Presses U.S. Envoy on Radio Stations

AB152250 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] The management of the Liberia Broadcasting System [LBS] has asked the U.S. Government to build all several rural radio station provided for in the financial agreement between the two governments. A total of $11.5 million of loan and grant was provided by the American Government for the stations, but due to understimation of the cost of the project from the start, the amount can build only 3 and 1/2 radio stations.

Presenting the matter to American Ambassador William Swing and the visiting Voice of America [VOA] director, Kenneth Thomasson at the LBS office today, the director general of the LBS, Alhaji Komah, said he does not anticipate asking the Soviet Union to complete the project started by the American Government. Mr Komah appealed to the U.S. ambassador, William Swing, to use his good offices to secure additional funds from his government to carry out the entire rural radio project.

During the meeting today, VOA Director (Thomasson) officially launched a pilot training program. The program will involve Liberian broadcasters being trained at VOA in Washington D.C. and VOA conducting local training in Liberia. The training program is to spread later to other parts of the world. Mr Thomasson said under his administration VOA will do away with propaganda and reflect the differences in the American society.

Ambassador Swing talked about his government's present budgetary constraints but promised to study the rural radio problem. Ambassador Swing also indicated optimism that the VOA pilot project will succeed to the mutual interest of the United States and Liberia.

Also today, the VOA director, Mr Thomasson, met with Information Minister Dr Peter Naigow and acquainted him with VOA plans for a joint training program with a number of Third World countries, including Liberia. He said such a joint venture was necessary to improve the scope of broadcasting relevant to the development of Liberia and other Third World countries. He said the joint training program will begin this June and about six Liberian broadcasters will benefit from the first phase of the program.

Minister Naigow lauded VOA for its intention to train Liberian broadcasters and said the training program for broadcasters was appropriate at this time when the government is considering the expansion of broadcasting facilities throughout the country. He said the presence of a VOA relay station in the country was necessary because, he said, it seeks to inform Africans on international developments. The information minister hoped for a more closer cooperation between Liberia and the United States in the field of broadcasting.

MALI

Soviet Peace Group Leaves;Leader Comments

AB151935 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] The delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace, which began visiting our country on 11 April, returned to Moscow this morning. During the visit the delegation, headed by (Tiraifil Vegenov), the vice president of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace, met with the chairman of the Malian Peace Movement, the political secretary of the Central Executive Bureau, the speaker of the National Assembly, the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, as well as our democratic and popular organizations and the Malian Association for the Unity and Progress of Islam.

The delegation also visited Segou in the Fourth Region where the leader of the Soviet delegation, (Tiraifil Vegenov), spoke to Sidi Diawara, our reporter, about the visit.

[Begin (Vegenov) recording in Russian fading into French translation] In my opinion, the significance of our visit to Mali, the discussions we held with the directorate of the organizations of public opinion and state personalities, as well as the document that we signed together yesterday with General Filifing Sissoko, the chairman of the Malian Peace Movement, lies in the fact that, first of all, our views were totally identical on current issues. The partisans of peace in both Mali and the USSR expressed their desire to see peace established forever on the Earth so that every nation can live in conditions of prosperity and well-being. This goal can only be achieved through concerted efforts by all the forces to which world peace is dear. And we note with a particular satisfaction the sincere desire of the Malian people to participate on a large and representative scale in the preparation and the holding of the most important international event of the current year; that is to say the World Assembly for Life and Peace Against Nuclear War which will take place at the end of June in Prague. As for us, the representatives of public opinion in the USSR, we are ready and resolved to continue the fight against the circles of imperialist aggression that want to impose the suicidal arms race on the people of our planet and the international community. [end recording]

NIGER

Kountche Announces Austerity Program 14 Apr

AB150929 Paris AFP in French 0809 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Niamey, 15 Apr (AFP) — Niger President General Seyni Kountche on Thursday evening announced some economic recovery measures and called on the country for effort, austerity, (?unity), discipline, and a sense of responsibility.

Speaking in a radio and television message delivered on the ninth anniversary of the Supreme Military Council's assumption of power on 15 April 1974, General Kounthce talked about the "bitter fact" of a "constantly deteriorating economic situation."

The economic recovery measures to be taken will aim at solving the balance of payments deficit and ensuring "improved management of the public finances." After calling for a "drastic reduction of the importation of goods and services," President Kountche invited his compatriots to strictly limit their energy consumption and "to try to consume locally produced goods" as much as possible. Liberalization and promotion measures will be taken to develop the export of livestock and surplus agricultural products. Small and medium-scale enterprises will be encouraged.

Moreover, said General Kountche, "a veritable battle to ensure a greater control of state expenses" will be launched. The number of state vehicles has already been severely reduced. Service trips abroad will be reduced to the strict minimum and other "radical measures concerning the abolition of certain advantages" will be decided, he announced.

President Kountche also announced that public companies and enterprises will be audited and that this "would result in the conversion into private companies or the outright abolition of those that are incapable of fulfilling their mission." Certain trade monopolies will be "reviewed" and, in certain fields, a return to the law of the market will be envisaged.

Concerning the appointment on 24 January this year of a prime minister in the person of Oumarou Mamane, Gen Kountche said that this confirmed "the Supreme Military Council's desire to associate all Niger citizens and particularly the youth in the political management of Niger's affairs without any other consideration than personal merit." This appointment, he added, is also due to the need for him " — after 9 years in power — to pause to reconsider his daily acitivities in order to be able to devote more time to certain major issues at the level of both the state and the nation."

President Kounthce also indicated that there was a "little delay" in the setting up of the new organs of the "developing society." The National Development Council which will emerge from the development units organized at all levels throughout the country will, it has been recalled, be turned into a constituent assembly. This national council should, in principle, have been set up on 15 April.

General Kountche also called on the country to ensure the rehabilitation of the 150,000 Niger citizens recently expelled from Nigeria. In this connection, he deplored "the limits of African solidarity." At first, these deportees will be given land to enable them participate in the activity of the forthcoming agricultural season.

Oil Discovered in Country for First Time

AB170649 Paris AFP in English 0420 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Niamey, April 17 (AFP) — The French company Elf-Aquitaine has found oil in Niger for the first time, a reliable source said here.

Tests are being made to see whether the small deposit, between the eastern town of Agadem and the Chadian border, is economically feasible.

NIGERIA

PRP Presidential Candidate Dies in Kano

AB180645 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Excerpt] The leader and presidential candidate of the People's Redemption Party [PRP], Malam Aminu Kano, is dead. According to Kano state radio, he died yesterday at the (Maibariya) house in (Jamaja) quarters in the Kano State capital. He was 62. [passage omitted]

Over 3,000 Dockworkers Lose Jobs This Year

AB170654 Lagos NAN in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Lagos, April 16 (NAN) — Over 3,000 dockworkers have lost their jobs since the ban on some imports came into effect in January this year, the national president of the Dockworkers Union of Nigeria, Mr. Joshua Ogunleye, said in Lagos yesterday. Mr. Ogunleye told the NEWS AGENCY of NIGERIA [NAN] that since the ban came into effect, no dockworkers had been able to work for more than 10 days in a month, because of the scarcity of ships at the harbour. He said that the ban had thrown the dock industry into disarray and called on President Shehu Shagari to remedy the situation by lifting the ban.

Mr. Ogunleye said that lifting the ban on imports would not only save the jobs of the dockworkers and reduce unemployment but that it would also prevent operations at the ports from grinding to halt.

Mr. Ogunleye also said that the indiscriminate registration of new dock labour contractors by the Nigerian Ports Authority was the cause of constant labour unrest in the dock industry.

He therefore appealed to the authority to devise a better way of handling the issue to minimize labour unrests in the industry.

SENEGAL

Libreville Reports Bongo Arrival 15 April

AB152046 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] After leaving Libreville early this afternoon, the president of the Republic, head of state and founding secretary general of the Gabonese Democratic Party, [El-hadj Omar Bongo] and his wife, Mrs Josephine Bongo, arrived at the Dakar International Airport at 1610 Dakar time or 1710 Libreville time. The Gabonese presidential couple was welcomed on arrival from the Air Gabon 747 Boeing aircraft by the Senegalese presidential couple, Mr and Mrs Abdou Diouf. Senegalese Prime Minister Moustapha Niasse was also present, surrounded by members of the Senegalese Government, Habib Thiam, the honorable speaker of the National Assembly; (Hinapan Bleo), president of the Economic and Social Council; members of the National Assembly bureau and civilian and military officials. [passage omitted] President Omar Bongo was presented to members of the Senegalese Government. After that the heads of state went to the VIP lounge and a while later left for the palace of the Republic, situated in the center of Dakar.

The head of state did not make any statement at the airport. Later, President Omar Bongo went to his apartment in the Presidency itself. The two heads of state will meet soon, at 2000 during a private dinner after resting.

Tomorrow is a very busy day for the presidential couple. At 0900 Dakar time the two heads of state are scheduled to hold talks followed by a working session to be extended to include members of the two delegations. [passage omitted].

UPPER VOLTA

Ouedraogo To Visit Four Neighboring States

AB170931 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, the chairman of the People's Salvation Council [CSP] and the head of state, leaves Ouagadougou tomorrow, Monday, 18 April, for Lome, Accra, Cotonou, and Niamey on a working and friendly visit. The head of state will be accompanied by the following officials: Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Michel Kafando; Interior and Security Minister Major Harouna Tarnagda; Transport, Environment and Tourism Minister Frederic Korsaga, one member of the CSP. Two top officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Interior and Security; Souleymanne Diallo; the director of state protocol; (Justin) Ouedraogo; Lieutenant Zongo, aide de camp; the director of the [?Republican Guard), Pascal Dunsungou; and the director of [words indistinct].

CSP Announces New Curfew Hours 17 April

AB180814 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] We are opening this newscast with a repeat of this important statement from the People's Salvation Council [CSP]: Taking into account the popular wish of the people to see the curfew hours that have been in effect since 7 November 1982 reduced and reaffirming the great need to guarantee public peace and security, the CSP has studied the issue and has decided that as of today, 17 April 1983 — that is to say yesterday — the curfew should begin from 0100 to 0500. It is to be understood that order and security will be guaranteed. To this effect and in the supreme interest of all, the public is invited to double its vigilance.

Signed: Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo.